

Hafa Adai!

Fire near SCA is quickly contained. **PAGE 2**

'Transferring Medical Referral back to CHCC not the answer' **PAGE 5**

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 107

www.saipantribune.com

TUESDAY JUNE 1, 2021

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

'CCC in serious budget crisis'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With Saipan's lone casino temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and no other casino to oversee,

the Commonwealth Casino Commission is facing a serious budget crisis, so much so that it is looking at possibly slashing its number of personnel.

At CCC board's monthly meeting Thursday at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, CCC board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero said he and

See CCC on Page 4

'If IPI cannot pay, CNMI has to move on to next in line'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said

Friday that if Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC cannot pay its arrears, then the Commonwealth has to take the "next step."

"I hope that IPI can take care of their pending issues," said Torres in response to a question during a radio news

See IPI on Page 4



Many families pay their respects to fallen loved ones during the Memorial Day event at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery yesterday morning.

More photos on Page 6

JOSHUA SANTOS

CNMI joins nation in honoring the fallen

RELATED NEWS

■ For Biden, a deeply personal Memorial Day weekend observance.
PAGE 12

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Governor and the Office of Veterans Affairs held a CNMI Memorial Day event at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery yesterday morning. The event featured a memorial tribute, a 21-gun salute, a B-52 Stratofortress flyby, a commemorative wreath laying, and many speeches from distinguished

See FALLEN on Page 4

WITH ARPA FUNDS AVAILABLE Judiciary recalling, filling 20 FTEs they lost

» **Judiciary requesting for additional \$5M funding for more FTEs, wage increases, funding for Mental Health Court**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the availability of the American Rescue Plan Act funding, the CNMI Judiciary is recalling and filling their 20 full-

See JUDICIARY on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:30pm, May 31, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population
Fully Vaccinated: **55%**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	22,070
Fully Vaccinated:	19,849
Moderna	
Initiated:	3,860
Fully Vaccinated:	3,099
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	286

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,156	0	8,156
Recovered	7,962	0	7,962
Active	55	0	55
Deaths	139	0	139
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	164,880		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	183	0	183
Traced via Travel Screening	147	0	147
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	72		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Egypt is betting on ancient archaeological finds to pull tourism out of the pandemic slump.

PAGE 11



NATION

President Joe Biden marked his first Memorial Day weekend as commander in chief.

PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE

"A Quiet Place Part II" opens over the Memorial Day weekend to a pandemic-best \$48.4 million.

PAGE 15



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

A brushfire near Saipan Cares for Animals in As Gonno last Sunday afternoon was soon extinguished, thanks to the quick response of the Department of Fire & Emergency

Medical Services. A short video of the brushfire's aftermath can be found on SCA's Facebook page.

Chloe Steffen, a clinician who was working at SCA on

Sunday, remembered being told by a colleague that there was huge amount of smoke outside and stepped outside to investigate. While outside, she remembers hearing the "roar"

Fire near SCA is quickly contained

of a fire and seeing flames over 10 feet high peeking above the jungle brush across the street of the community rescue clinic.

Steffen and other SCA staff immediately called DFEMS, moved their cars, and relocated multiple puppies and young kittens indoors to protect their lungs from the smoke. Steffen said that when she called DFEMS, they were already aware of the fire and a team had already been sent out. DFEMS then contained and extinguished the fire.

Steffen said that SCA's current location and the jungle brushes where the fires started are separated by a road in between, and that it was very

fortunate the flames were contained before they were able to extend past the road.

The video and more information about the community

rescue clinic can be found on Saipan Cares for Animals' Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Saipan-cares>. (Joshua Santos)

Proposed Mental Health Court is moving toward July 6 launch date

The formation of the CNMI Mental Health Court remains on track for its targeted July 6 live date, according to Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio last Thursday.

Kim-Tenorio shared in a brief interview what is currently in the works and what needs to happen next for the Mental Health Court to make the July 6 launch date.

In a May 20 update from Associate Justice John A. Manglona, it was then learned that the treatment court is to be handled by Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja, with Kim-Tenorio and Drug Court manager Edward Diaz "heavily involved" in the drafting of the policy and procedures manual.

According to Kim-Tenorio on Thursday, a second draft of the manual is in the works, and that she has already met with some of the Mental Health Court's future key agents.

"Right now, we are on our second draft of the policies and procedures, [and] we've met with a lot of our primary stakeholders," she said.

Meetings with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the CNMI Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Governor, and other treatment providers have already taken place. Up next is finalizing the policies and procedures manual, assembling a Mental Health Court team, and actually implementing the program. (Joshua Santos)

DHS sets TPS for Burma

The Department of Homeland Security published yesterday a *Federal Register* notice designating Burma for Temporary Protected Status for 18 months, effective May 25, 2021, through Nov. 25, 2022. Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas previously announced on March 12 that Burma would be designated for TPS.

The designation of Burma for TPS allows an estimated 1,600 Burmese nationals (or individuals having no nationality who last habitually resided in Burma) who have been continuously residing in the United States since March 11, 2021, and continuously physically present in the United States since May 25, 2021, to

file initial applications to obtain TPS. Applicants must also meet additional TPS eligibility requirements.

Individuals applying for TPS under the designation of Burma must submit an initial Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, during the 180-day initial registration period that runs from May 25, 2021, through Nov. 22, 2021. Applicants may also be eligible to apply for TPS-related Employment Authorization Documents and for travel authorization. (USCIS)

Pride Month proclamation signing

In celebration of Pride Month, the public is invited to the CNMI Pride Month proclamation signing on June 2, 2021, at 9am at the Koblerville Basketball court.

Pride Month, which is typically observed in June, is a global celebration, one where many collective voices unite to support an amazing cause and honor our LGBTQIA+ community. It is celebrated to honor the 1969 Stonewall uprising in Manhattan, considered a tipping point for the gay liberation movement in the United States.

In the United States, the last Sunday in June was initially celebrated as "Gay Pride Day." In major cities across the nation the "day" soon grew to encompass a month-long series of events. Today, celebrations include pride parades, picnics, parties, workshops, symposia and concerts, and LGBTQ Pride Month events attract millions of participants around the world. Memorials are held during this month for those members of the community who have been lost to hate crimes. The purpose of the commemorative month is to recognize the impact that les-

bian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally.

We want to encourage all partners to get involved and find creative ways to show support. We urge our community to raise awareness of LGBTQIA+ rights. Your continued support is crucial for a loving and accepting environment, especially for our LGBTQIA+ youth.

Last year, 2020, Pride Marianas Youth volunteer Dr. Bobby Cruz said, "While we've seen tremendous progress in the past 50 years for the advancement of LGBTQIA+ rights, it's still important because there's still work to be done to ensure that marginalized groups, particularly our LGBTQ+ community, have an opportunity to participate in this world that they are a part of."

The Torres-Palacios administration expanded the Pride celebration last year by declaring the CNMI's first-ever Pride Month. "We need to work together to create a loving and accepting environment, especially for our LGBTQIA+ youth," said Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. (PR)



CENTER FOR LIVING INDEPENDENTLY IN THE CNMI

Food Pantry Program

This is to inform the general public that the Center for Living Independently in the CNMI (CLI-CNMI) will be launching the **FOOD PANTRY Program** made possible by the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on **June 01, 2021**.

The total allocation awarded to CLI-CNMI is **\$135,089.50**, in which \$109,171.60 for the Project and no more than \$25,917.90 for planning and administrative cost. The Food Pantry Program was made to prepare, prevent and respond to the Coronavirus Pandemic and to supplement and expand ongoing efforts to procure food and infection control supplies in the CNMI.

The Project will provide assistance to eligible individuals with disability on a first come, first serve basis as a one-time only assistance and while funds are available.

Note: Only a member of the household with a disability may be eligible for the program.

Eligible Criteria

Low Moderate Clientele Activity: The program will be open to a specific clientele (persons with disability ages 18-99). CLI will implement the following procedures: Collect documentation from households seeking assistance: Self-Certification of disability. Households will also be required to provide a self-certification indicating that they are either (1) not receiving the same type of assistance during the same period OR (2) they are receiving the same type of assistance (e.g. NAP benefit); however, are seeking program assistance to cover the "unmet need".

The "unmet need" will be determined using the Official USDA Food Plans: Cost of Food at Home as follows: Cost of Food per family - Value of Food Assistance Provided (if any) = Unmet Need

Application Steps:

1. Pick up Application AND Certification form at CLI-CNMI
2. Submit Completed application and Certification form
3. Review of completed application(s)
4. Applicant eligible for the assistance will be contacted by CLI staff to schedule pick up date for food/supplies
5. Applicant deemed ineligible for the assistance will be notified by CLI.

NOTE: Interested applicants with transportation issues may contact CLI-CNMI for accommodation.

Office hours are Monday to Friday
7:30a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Person(s) interested in applying for the Food Pantry assistance may contact CLI at 322-4303/04 for more details on the assistance.

Susan Satur
Executive Director



AK BODY & PAINT ANY MODEL. ANYTIME.



WE NOW ACCEPT ALL MAKES AND MODELS



Atkins Kroll (Saipan), Inc.
#1 Chalan Msr Guerrero San Jose
Saipan, MP 96950

Showroom Hours:
Monday to Saturday 8am to 5pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A FREE ESTIMATE
Call 234-5911 Ext 142 or 145

HERE FOR SAIPAN. HERE FOR LIFE.

Shop Online at AKsaipan.com

Man in fake driver's license case gets probation, fines

By JOSHUA SANTOS

joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 58-year-old Chinese national was sentenced last Friday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI to one year probation for presenting a fake driver's

license and fake vehicle registration during a traffic stop in 2019.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI also ordered Mingjin Jin to pay a \$100 special assessment fee and a \$500 fine due in 30 days.

According to the minutes of the May 28, 2021 sentencing hearing, Jin's lawyer, Steven P. Pixley gave his sentencing recommendation, and Jin gave his allocution. The U.S. government gave their sentencing recommendations as well.

An allocution is a formal statement made to the court by a defendant in a case where they have already been found guilty prior to being sentenced.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona then handed down Jin's sentence and ordered that

he report to the U.S. Marshals Office for DNA collection.

The criminal minutes states that the Jin "remained released."

Jin, who was indicted on Nov. 24 last year, entered the CNMI back in 1991 as a gar-

ment worker, but lost his immigration status sometime before the Aug. 22, 2019, traffic stop that revealed he was using a fake driver's license and vehicle registration. Currently, Jin has two minor sons who were both born on Saipan.

Settlement conference for former Eucon teacher continues on July 7

By JOSHUA SANTOS

joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As of May 25, former Eucon teacher Yantao Xia's settlement conference with Eucon International School is scheduled to continue in the U.S. District Court for the NMI before Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy on July 7.

The settlement is an attempt for both sides to reach a mutually agreeable resolution of their dispute without having to proceed to a trial.

Xia, who is representing himself in this case, initially filed a

complaint against his former employer on Feb. 17, alleging two breaches of contract, violations of the CNMI Minimum Wage and Hour Act and Fair Labor Standards Act, and fraud.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Eucon allegedly required Xia to pay fees to a person named "Rapture," who was allegedly an agent of Eucon, for his visa application. Xia claimed that his visa processing was handled by "Eucon or Eucon's agents," and that the \$2,350 he paid in visa processing fees went to Hsieh-Kan Christian Wei, who man-

aged Eucon at the time.

The settlement conferences between the former teacher and the school first began on May 14. Eucon is represented by Colin M. Thompson.

Eucon, through Thompson,

filed its answer to Xia's complaint in the district court on March 15. Eucon admitted to multiple allegations in Xia's complaint, namely facts Xia presented regarding his employment terms and scope of

work, the terms of Xia's first and second employment contracts, and the terms related to Xia's wages. Eucon also admitted to Xia's claim that "Rapture" was "an agent of Eucon and within the scope of his agency with Eucon."

Eucon, however, denied

many of Xia's other allegations. Eucon denied that Xia's processing was handled by Eucon or agents of Eucon, that "Rapture" required Xia to pay \$2,350 to Eucon manager Wei, and denied the breaches of contract and labor law violations that Xia alleged.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Saipan municipal council session on Thursday

The 7th Regular Session of the 16th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council that was scheduled for May 28, 2021, has been rescheduled for Thursday, June 3, 2021, at 10am at the Saipan and Northern Mariana Islands Municipal Council office at the Kiosku, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan. (PR)

Scheduled power service interruptions today

There will be two scheduled power service interruptions today, June 1, 2021, as follows:

8:30am to 12:30pm - Garapan

■ Distribution Circuit: Feeder 2

■ Areas Affected: Partial areas of Micro Beach Road

■ Water Well Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: None

■ Purpose: To relocate primary and secondary power lines to allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s contractor, GPPC Inc., to safely work on the renovation project for the S-5 lift station in Garapan

9am to 1pm — Capital Hill

■ Distribution Circuit: Feeder 4

■ Areas Affected: Guguan Dr., Tano Ct., Pajaron Lp., Managaha P1., Farallon P1., partial of Chalan Savana, Marianas Ln., Kantit Ln., and Sariguan Dr.

■ Water Well Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: None

■ Purpose: To replace rusted power pole hardware on 10 primary power poles along Guguan Dr.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline at 236-4333 or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

BECQ cleanup at LaoLao Bay Beach on Saturday

In honor of CNMI Ocean Month, the Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality will be hosting a cleanup at LaoLao Bay Beach from 8:30am to 10:30am on Saturday, June 5, 2021.

If you would like to volunteer, meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at the LaoLao Bay Beach parking lot at 8:30am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10:30am.

Cleanup supplies such as gloves, trash bags, and hand sanitizers will be provided. Trash hauling and disposal will be taken care of by BECQ. Water will be provided; just bring your reusable water bottles.

For more information, contact CNMI Ocean Month co-chair Colleen Flores at 664-8300/16, or cleanup coordinator Larry Maurin at 664-8500/01. (PR)

4.9-magnitude quake in Guam

At 2:02am on May 30, 2021, a report of a 4.9-magnitude earthquake occurred 92 kilometers north of Merizo, Guam. Currently, no Tsunami warnings or advisories are issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

LEVEL UP!

New and **AFFORDABLE** devices now available.

Samsung Galaxy A52

FREE*

10GB Data Plan | \$50/mo

Samsung Galaxy A72

\$49

10GB Data Plan | \$50/mo

ite.net itecnmi f itecnmi

*Terms and conditions apply. Advertised pricing available on the 2-year plan. Subject to credit check. Visit ite.net for details.

PACIFICPOINTS

IT&E



Commonwealth Casino Commission board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero presides over the CCC board's monthly meeting Thursday at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai. DeLeon Guerrero said CCC is in a serious budget crisis.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

CCC

From Page 1

CCC executive director Andrew Yeom were previously discussing a possibility of implementing a reduction-in-force, which essentially means cutting some positions.

"Should we continue [with] this budget crisis, we have to tighten up the belt even more," he said.

He said the budget crisis will be discussed further at their executive session.

DeLeon Guerrero also raised a concern about their order that says the annual casino license fee and the casino regulatory fee be paid immediately. He said he does not know whether or not it's a necessity to have a legal definition of "immediately."

"But we all know that the annual license fee was due

back in August 2020 and the regulatory fee was due on Oct. 1, 2020," he said.

DeLeon Guerrero said their final order reminded Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC that those fees must be paid immediately.

Last April 22, the CCC board ordered an indefinite suspension of IPI's gaming license, pay \$6.6 million in total penalty in six months, and pay immediately \$15.5 mil-

lion and \$3.1 million in annual casino exclusive license fee and annual casino regulatory fee, respectively, for violating many CCC orders.

At the same Thursday meeting, Yeom reported to the board that the CCC has been losing employees.

Yeom said the current head count of full-time employees is at 39, including their legal counsel, assistant attorney general Michael Ernest.

He said the 39 will go down more after procurement officer Don Camacho left last May 15 and acting permit and licensing manager Benjamin Hocog submitted his resignation effective June 5.

"It is sad to see these wonderful and capable people leave as we can only hope for their success in their career maneuvers," Yeom said.

For now, Yeom said, Arden Sablan is the interim procurement officer.

He said he will soon an-

nounce someone from the Permit and Licensing Division to be the next acting manager of that office.

He said he would be presenting and discussing personnel matters during the executive session that day.

Yeom also disclosed that for the month of April 2021, CCC's total expense was \$162,862. Of this total expense, he said, 72.93% was spent on personnel wages and benefits and 16.62% was spent on the board and other compensations.

IPI

From Page 1

briefing if he has ideas of IPI's future and if anybody else were to take over, and if he and then the commission were likely to approve that.

The governor noted that, although he didn't thoroughly read it in the news, there was a federal court judgment that awarded millions of dollars to IPI's former employees in a labor case.

"I hope that they can pay their arrears in order for them to move forward, or us for that matter," Torres said.

The judgment that Torres was referring to was a \$5.91-million default judgment that U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued in favor of seven Chinese construction workers, who had sued IPI for allegedly subjecting them to forced

labor while working then on IPI's casino/resort project in Garapan.

Torres said a lot of issues involving IPI are before the courts. He said if IPI cannot move forward with the casino industry, whoever is next in line, the government will make that decision with the Legislature when it comes.

"But as of now I hope that they can take care of their arrears and continue to do business here. But if not, then we have to take the next step and we move on," the governor said.

Last April 22, the Commonwealth Casino Commission board ordered the indefinite suspension of IPI's gaming license and directed IPI to pay \$6.6 million in total penalty within six months and pay immediately \$15.5 million and \$3.1 million in annual casino exclusive license fee and annual casino regulatory fee, respectively.

JUDICIARY

From Page 1

time employee positions they had lost due to lack of funding, according to CNMI Judiciary director of courts Sonia A. Camacho.

Camacho discussed the Judiciary's FTE's during the House of Representatives' Committee on Ways and Means' budget hearing for the Judiciary last Thursday.

Committee vice chair Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), who presided over the hearing, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he does not have the accurate documents with him, but in summary the Judiciary's request was more than its 2019 budget level.

Blanco said the Judiciary is requesting an additional \$5 million, which would include, among others, additional FTEs and funding, employee wage increases, and funding for the Mental Health Court that is slated to be launched in July this year.

At the hearing, Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) asked how many employees were furloughed or permanently removed from the Judiciary prior to the ARPA funds coming to the CNMI. In response, Camacho said that, in the previous fiscal year they had 94 FTEs and that 20 were vacated.

She said she wants to use the word "vacated" because their personnel regulations do not cover furlough for all employees. "We have Civil Service employees who were furloughed. ... But for the rest of the employees... it's an involuntary separation because it was not due to a reason of their making," the director pointed out.

Camacho said they released 20 from their contracts and



CNMI Judiciary director of courts Sonia A. Camacho listens to Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja's remarks during a hearing for the Judiciary's budget Thursday before the House Committee on Ways and Means. Also in the photo is Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

they left the Judiciary in May last year.

She said since the confirmation of ARPA funds were made known to the Judiciary, they are recalling and filling the 20 positions. In fact, Camacho said, they have filled two and are waiting for 18 more.

"There are some that are being announced. There are some that will be automatically filled right away. Because under our personnel regulations, there's a call back clause that allows us to call back those that were separated for those reasons," the director said.

Camacho said they have already filled some of the 20 FTEs and that they have been assured by the administration that all those positions will be covered under ARPA.

Camacho said the Judiciary submitted its request for ARPA funds last April 14 to the Executive Branch.

At the proclamation signing for Law Week this month, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres announced that a preliminary figure that may be allocated to the Judiciary is initially \$10 million, she said.

The director said that on Monday, May 24, they received an invitation from the Office of Management and Budget and in that meeting, OMB chief Vicky Villagomez informed them that the Executive Branch intends to supplement its budget submission.

Camacho said Villagomez told them that the underlying reasons are that the ARPA funds have physically been received and the interim guidelines are out.

She said they were informed that OMB was inviting all agencies and the Judiciary to go over the numbers with them.

Camacho said they did go over the Judiciary's existing budget submission that was provided to the Legislature.

Camacho said the number that OMB gave them at that meeting to cover personnel was \$2.1 million under ARPA funds.

She said currently, OMB's submission allocates 20% of the Judiciary's FTEs be covered under ARPA funds.

Camacho said at the Monday's meeting, they told OMB

that they are going to call back the 20 staff that they lost.

"They told us that would be okay because it would be covered under ARPA funds, but within the confines of the \$2.1 million that's been set aside for personnel," she said.

Last March, the CNMI Judiciary submitted to the Legislature a budget request for fiscal year 2022 in the amount of \$11,832,100, which is approximately \$7 million more than what is currently allocated to the Judiciary.

CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja stated in their budget request that the \$11.83 million is not outside of their previous budget requests, and that this reflects what the Judiciary truly needs to run effectively.

Castro and Naraja said for many years the Judiciary has taken a backseat due to other issues in the CNMI. They said the lack of adequate funding has continuously strained judicial services and stretched employees extremely thin, both physically and mentally.

FALLEN

From Page 1

guests. Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) was the event's master of ceremony. Saipan Southern High School's Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Color Guard were present to conduct the posting and retiring of colors, and the Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band provided ceremonial music throughout the event.

In his welcoming remarks, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres thanked the families honoring loved ones for coming and extended his gratitude toward those who gave up their lives to keep the country and the CNMI safe. "The islands thank you, and we remember our heroes," said Torres.

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios echoed the governor and gave everybody present a reminder that remembrance goes beyond just Memorial Day. "[We] remember their sacrifices every day, every week, and every year," said Palacios.

Joe W. McDoulett, commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3457, which is based on Saipan, was the event's keynote speaker. In his speech, he acknowledged that Memorial Day is a day of

mourning and remembrance, but also added that it is a day of sharing memories and experiences with others.

"The purpose of Memorial Day is to share. What we share on Memorial Day are the memories of our loved ones. The memories of the joyful times, the things that they've done, and the contributions they've made to our community. We are gathered today to share with each other," said McDoulett.

After the event, Brad Ruszala—who is the District VI commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Pacific Areas—spoke of the importance of Memorial Day. "[Memorial Day] is an opportunity for us to give thanks to the folks who passed away and gave their lives in service to our nation. ... Their service will never be forgotten," he said.

In an interview after the event, Office of Veterans Affairs executive officer Stanley Iakopo put into perspective what Memorial Day means as a surviving veteran. "Our families here have loved ones buried in this hallowed ground, and there's nothing that you can compare to the emotions that they go through. My heart goes out to them. [Surviving veterans] are here to honor them and thank them," he said.

‘Transferring Medical Referral back to CHCC not the answer’

» Director says solution is adequate funding with no political interference

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The director of the Medical Referring Services himself believes that transferring the program back to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is not the answer to the ills plaguing the program. Rather, priority and adequate funding with no political interference is the solution, according to Ronald D. Sablan.

In his testimony Friday before the House Committee on Health and Welfare, Sablan said the program’s size and expenditures are based on the number and category of patients approved for off-island referral whose treatment can’t be done locally. Therefore, he said, reducing the number of off-island referrals means supporting the advancement of CHCC’s operation, especially on human resources, equipment, and facilities to meet today’s health care challenges.

The committee hearing continues the series of meetings that committee chair Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) has held on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan to review the program and examine how the program may be reformed to improve services, streamline costs, and enhance accountability.

In his testimony last Friday, Ronald Sablan said the Medical Referral Services has a long history as the top political subject every election year, yet its personnel and operation requirements were never fully supported or funded appropriately to meet its mandated responsibilities.

“Medical referral must be

depoliticized and adequately budgeted to run smoothly and consistently following its owned rules and regulations focusing on patients care,” he said.

He pointed out that it’s very frustrating and an insult to them whenever news articles or personal interviews emphasize the deficit status of MRP, when in actuality it was never funded in the first place.

For the program to run smoothly with consistent policy, Ronald Sablan said, means it has to be allowed to hire its own personnel, be adequately funded, and be officially organized as an independent program similar to the New Medicaid model or as an autonomous agency. He said full-time employee funding requirement must be addressed and memorandum of understanding from mayors’ offices and other political hires must stop.

At times, he said, the Guam or Hawaii officer-in-charge would not follow protocols or submit required reports to the CNMI central office because they only answer to the one who hired them. This, Ronald Sablan said, is creating a dysfunctional operation affecting their level of service.

He said due to the sensitivity and confidential nature of their operation and to be compliant with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act requirements, MRP recruitment must be scrutinized based on operation requirement and applicants’ qualification, attitude, a people-to-people personality, ability to

deal with difficult and stressful environment, and the willingness to multitask.

“In all fairness, civil service pay scale must be followed depending of qualification or morale becomes a problem,” he said.

On the misconception issue, Ronald Sablan said off-island referrals are reviewed and approved by the Medical Referral Committee—not the Medical Referral Office management. He said the committee is composed of six voting members who are all physicians licensed by the CNMI Professional Licensing Board and approved by CHCC’s chief executive officer. Committee members meet every Wednesday to review every referral request submitted for the week and those incomplete from prior meetings.

With respect to its budget, Ronald Sablan said MRP has always been underfunded to the tune of 50% or as low as 13% in the last 10 years. He said the funding level obviously is inappropriate and the program runs under underfunded liability when expenditures are realistically within a margin of error of requested budget submission, depending on number of patients.

On personnel housing, Ronald Sablan said employees in past administrations accepted their employment without the housing benefit. Currently, only Honolulu personnel are receiving housing allowance and Guam employees are complaining of the unfairness. “It’s either we provide to all or eliminate en-

tirely,” the director said.

He said MRP must focus on direct patient care. Sablan said the program will provide airfare, hotel accommodations, ground transportation, and subsistence allowance only during out-patient status.

He said the program provides hotel accommodations for the duration of treatment if a family escort is approved.

He said MRS should only be the prayer of last resort for all medical treatment.

Sablan said patient will be seen only at approved facilities unless referred by the approved facility for specific treatment.

With respect to escorts, the director said there should be no family or friend escort unless approved by the committee for patients with debilitating medical condition and require one.

He said MRS will not be responsible for any medical cost of escorts except for real emergencies.

Ronald Sablan said a high percentage of complaints registered from medical facilities, transportation, and hotel providers are because of escorts.

On insurance, the director said most private Guam-based insurance carriers except for

Aetna only covers treatment done in the Philippines.

He said MRS will not cover maintenance cost (hotel, ground transportation and sub-allowance) beyond 45 days unless satisfactory and

up to date medical reports are submitted for review and approval by the committee.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com



Job Announcement

Position: Pool Maintenance
No. of Vacancies: 1
Salary Range: \$7.25-\$8.33 (Hourly)
Minimum Hours per week: 40

Opening Date: 5/25/2021
Closing Date: 6/15/2021

Duties: Maintains all pools at the hotel and ensures that all standards are met in providing a clean pool. Maintains the operations and maintenance of swimming pool equipment. Performs preventive maintenance of swimming pool and swimming pool equipment daily. Maintains the pool pumps and filters. Diagnoses, repairs and maintains public swimming pools, water systems, filter systems, pumps, and playground equipment. Maintains ideal water condition, safety and cleanliness of the pool. Add acid, chlorine, and other chemicals to correct pH of swimming pool. Monitors, handles, and installs all chemicals for swimming pools. Transports and stores hazardous chemicals. Test and treat water supply. Repair machines, equipment, or structures, using various hand tools such as hammers, hoists, saws, drills, wrenches, or equipment such as precision measuring instruments or electrical or electronic testing device. Makes use of reusable items and implement any established policy. Ensure completion of planned maintenance programs. Dismantles and overhauls areas such as pumps, compressors, and pipe systems and water systems as needed. Ensure adherence to quality standards and health and safety regulations including handling of chemicals. Use tools, equipment, material and chemical safely and efficiently. Performs other related duties as required.

Job Requirements: Minimum of two (2) years related work experience at a hotel in a similar role is required. A high school diploma or higher is required. Previous HAZMAT training preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays. Shift begins at 2:00 a.m. daily.

Education: High School diploma.

Work Schedule: Shift begins at 2:00 a.m. daily.

Benefits: Fringe benefits include shift duty meals, WCC, medical insurance, vacation / personal leave, life insurance, holiday pay and 401(k) retirement benefits.

This is a non-exempt position and is eligible to receive overtime compensation in accordance to The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

Additional Notes:

A PIC Employment Application must be submitted, together with the requirements, in order to be considered for the position. ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETE AT THE TIME OF SUBMISSION. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered. PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance. Skills testing may be required.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

PUBLIC NOTICE

(This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds)
May 27, 2021

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt Arnold I. Palacios, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman, Ms. Merced “Marcie” M. Tomokane, wish to announce that its Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER) Report for Program Year 2019 is available for review. Comments made by the general public should be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, June 11, 2021. Written comments must be submitted to the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by contacting Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, at 234-9447/7689.

The report will be submitted to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Honolulu Office, on or before June 25, 2021. The CAPER encompasses the performance assessment of all HUD-funded programs, administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The report is available on NMHC’s website at www.nmhc.gov.net and at the NMHC Central Office in Saipan and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Rota and Tinian during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. Individuals needing special accommodations to review and comment on the plan must contact the Planning Division for arrangements by calling (670) 234-7689/6866 during regular business hours.

/s/ Merced “Marcie” M. Tomokane
Chairwoman of the Board

“NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency”

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Romando D. Lagrio
Petitioner

VS.

Marietta G. Lagrio
Respondent

FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION
NO. 21-0156

SUMMONS FOR
PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDED: Marietta G. Lagrio

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 505011 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 26th day of April, 2021.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: June 01, 2021 CLOSING DATE: June 16, 2020 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary:
2021-025	CDBG-DR Construction Inspector	UNGRADED \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00
2021-026	CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist	UNGRADED \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at www.nmhc.gov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to jjmuna@nmhc.gov.mp.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to jjmuna@nmhc.gov.mp. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

2021 Memorial Day



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, center, is joined by Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios in laying a commemorative wreath at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery's flag circle as part of the proceedings of yesterday morning's Memorial Day event. On the wreath is the quote, "In valor there is hope." **JOSHUA SANTOS**

JOSHUA SANTOS
The distinguished guests of yesterday's Memorial Day event at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi come together for a photo at the cemetery's flag circle. Included in this photo is Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, and others.



Multiple families are escorted by Saipan Southern High School's Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps members to the gravesites of their loved ones during yesterday morning's Memorial Day event at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery. **JOSHUA SANTOS**



U.S. military personnel who participated in yesterday's Memorial Day ceremony on Tinian have their picture taken after the event, which commemorated the Battle for Kastiyo Plateau that lasted from July 31 to Aug. 1, 1944. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI historian Don Farrell delivers his remarks at yesterday's Memorial Day ceremony on Tinian.



The Stallion Battalion of the Tinian Junior/Senior High School provided color guard services at the Memorial Day ceremony on Tinian yesterday. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



The Stallion Battalion of the Tinian Junior/Senior High School participated in the Memorial Day ceremony on Tinian yesterday. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Edwin Aldan delivers his remarks at yesterday's Memorial Day ceremony on Tinian.

'Biden backs removing Medicaid funding caps for territories'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kili Sablan (Ind-MP) said over the weekend

that President Joe Biden supports eliminating the Medicaid funding caps for U.S. territories and aligning the matching rate with the States.

Sablan said in his e-kilili newsletter that his requests for insular area inclusion in the President's fiscal year 2022 budget were successful, based on Biden's budget proposal released Friday.

Sablan said he in-



Sablan

troduced H.R. 265 that would take the first step: lifting the Medicaid cap.

H.R. 265 seeks to amend Title XI of the Social Security Act to eliminate the general Medicaid funding limitations for U.S. territories. The del-

egate said H.R. 265 now has 65 cosponsors and was recently mentioned in the Kaiser Family Foundation issue brief as a solution for insular Medicaid.

The Kaiser Family Foundation is a nonprofit organization focusing on national health issues, as well as the U.S. role in global health policy.

500 Sails to receive \$25K 'Our Town' grant from NEA

500 Sails has been approved for a \$25,000 Our Town grant to support its *Songsong Mami* (Our Village) project.

This is one of 63 grants nationwide that the agency has approved in this category to support projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities into efforts that strengthen communities by advancing local economic, physical, and/or social outcomes, ultimately laying the groundwork for sustainable systems change.

"As the country and the arts sector begin to work [toward] a post-pandemic world, the National Endowment for the Arts is proud to announce this Our Town funding. These awards will support cross-sector partnerships such as the one led by 500 Sails that demonstrate the power of the arts to help communities create a better future for themselves," said NEA acting chair Ann Eilers.

"*Songsong Mami* seeks to raise the level and quality of artistic expression of canoe culture by immersing youth in the actual practice of canoe culture. It will involve building canoes, sailing, swimming, and fishing—experiences that parallel pre-colonial life [on] these islands. These experiences will inform the creation and performance of new Chamorro and Carolinian dances based on canoe cultur-

al themes including canoe building, sailing, voyaging, traditional navigation, and the beauty and power of the sea," said 500 Sails executive director Pete Perez.

To support local arts and contribute to the sense of place for our islands, the *Songsong Mami* (Our Village) project brings the community new indigenous dances, dance performances, cultural presentations, and experiences building and sailing traditional canoes, all of which further community goals to reclaim artistic expression of the island's traditional maritime heritage that was nearly lost during colonial eras of occupation, and add to a growing body of indigenous art and cultural resources. Indigenous artists and cultural practitioners will come together on the islands of Saipan and Tinian to create and perform Chamorro and Carolinian dances for the public at art and cultural events. The project official starts on July 1, 2021.

For more information on the other projects included in the Arts Endowment grant announcement, visit arts.gov/news.

For more information on the *Songsong Mami* project, email info@500sails.org, follow 500 Sails at <https://www.facebook.com/500SailsDolphinClubSaipan>, or call 500 Sails co-founder Emma Perez at 670-285-4268. (PR)

Walk for Recovery caps Drug Court Month



Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, center, poses for a group photo with Drug Court staff and the treatment court's many participants, program graduates, and their families during the Drug Court's Walk for Recovery at the Minachom Atdao last Thursday. House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez, right with pair of glasses, stopped by to check on the event on Thursday afternoon.

JOSHUA SANTOS

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Drug Court concluded its celebration of CNMI Drug Court Month with a Walk for Recovery last May 27, which began at 5pm at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion. Alongside Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio on Thursday were Drug Court staff and many of the treatment

court's current participants, program graduates, and their families.

Considering that the Drug Court Month last year was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Kim-Tenorio was pleasantly surprised at how well things turned out this year. "Drug Court Month was very successful this year. ... There were seven events that were coordinated and they all went through without any

problems. [There were] lots of turnout, lots of participants, lots of folks in recovery [who] came out to support," said Kim-Tenorio.

Throughout May, the CNMI Drug Court held a beach cleanup, family orientation, Family Fun Day, two radio talk shows at KKMP, and two school outreaches at Tanapag Middle School and Francisco M. Sablan Middle School.

Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. High School promotes 42

ROTA—Forty-two Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior High School 8th grade promotees are moving into high school and a special drive-thru ceremony was held in their honor last May 27.

Class valedictorian is Sayera Sidur. She is also the recipient of the Board of Education Award. She received the award from BOE chair Andrew Orsini, vice chair Herman Atalig, board member Antonio Bora, and principal D. Tanya King.

The salutatorian and recipient of the Commissioner of Education Award is Ashley Cayabyab. Dr. Alfred B. Ada, along with King, presented the award.

Three other 8th grade students were promoted with top honors. They were Star Mendiola, Wynette Ogo, and Al Valentine Taitano, Jr.

Making the day extra special for the students, the school team set up a photo booth where each student, after receiving their certificates of promotion, could have their picture taken with their loved ones.

Education and elected leaders joined King, vice principal Annette Calvo, and the RHI school family during the promotion ceremony.

Valedictorian Sidur is honored and proud of



Valedictorian and Board of Education Awardee Sayera Sidur is celebrated by her Rota public school community.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

her accomplishment. "I began my schooling back in Bangladesh until I was in third grade. I was very sad when I had to leave all my friends and family behind to move here to Rota and start a new journey. ... I struggled a lot because I wasn't good at speaking or writing English. This made it difficult for me to do well in my class. But I didn't give up. With the help of my teachers, my classmates, and my family, I

was able to overcome the challenges I went through," Sidur said. "Now, I can't believe that I am the valedictorian of my class. I have definitely come a long way."

Salutatorian Cayabyab honored parents for their support. "This is the day when we can make our parents proud."

Joining education leaders in congratulating the promoted students were Sens. Paul A. Manglona and Teresita Santos, Rep. Donald Mendiola, Mayor Efraim Atalig, and Rota Municipal Council chair Jim Atalig, among others. (PSS)



ASHLEY CAYABYAB
Commissioner of Education Award Salutatorian

LDTF names 5 winners of 'mommy makeover' raffle

For Mother's Day this year, the Lady Diann Torres Foundation held a "Mommy Makeover Giveaway" on social media. Five lucky winners were randomly selected to win a complete makeover that included hairdo, makeup, manicure, pedicure, and an outfit for a combined value of over \$200. The giveaway drew roughly 800 entries. To enter or nominate a mother, one was required

to tag Instagram handles or accounts on the official post comment box and like/follow the LDTF page. Through random selection, the five lucky winners were: Carmen Lizama, Ester Sablan, Candice Celis, Jatanna Sherise, and Nassya Techur.

The prizes were sponsored by first lady Diann Torres, Wella Palacios, and Pena House Boutique and Salon. (PR)



Carmen Lizama is the first of five winners to have received her winning package. The photo was taken at Pena House Boutique, shortly after Lizama received her full makeover. Also in the photo are Chona Maglayon and Mijana Isabel.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXI, Issue No. 107Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.comMark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

'The mob made me do it' and other lame excuses from Jan. 6 Capitol rioters

Some of the defendants facing charges in the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol deserve points for creativity. Among the defense arguments emerging in court documents: "I got caught up in the mob" and "Trump told me to do it." But the "mob" and the individuals charged in the insurrection are one and the same, and breaking the law just because you think a higher authority with a well-known penchant for dangerous rhetoric said you could doesn't make it right. The attempt to brush aside criminal behavior with such lame excuses turns the concept of personal responsibility on its head.

The images from that day are already infamous: crowds tearing down police barriers outside the Capitol complex and sparring with outnumbered officers; jubilant rioters live-streaming and taking selfies inside the building; a man with his feet propped up on the desk in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office. Many Americans watched the mob on television, stunned at the sight of a hallowed institution of our democracy being overrun by thugs.

Now they want us to believe they just got swept up in the moment. A defendant from Chicago says he only went to Washington that day to attend the rally where then-President Donald Trump fired up the crowd with false claims about a stolen election. According to the FBI, Kevin James Lyons claimed there was little he could do to escape the crowd because he weighs only 140 lbs. Apparently it will be left to a jury to make sense of how the disadvantage of his bodyweight led him to post a photo on social media captioned, "WHOS HOUSE?!?! OUR HOUSE??" Other defendants facing charges from Jan. 6 are invoking what's known as a public authority defense—in essence, Trump gave them permission to do what they did.

While a public authority defense is not likely to work at trial, it's a sobering reminder of the sway Trump holds over many of his followers, who take his words literally, no matter how reckless.

Now imagine the hair-on-fire reaction among conservative commentators if protesters in Minneapolis accused of vandalism had tried to make the "caught up in the mob" argument. Or if the millions of people who took to the streets across the country in support of racial justice following George Floyd's death last year said they were overcome by the moment? Republicans in three dozen states including Florida responded to those demonstrations with heavy-handed legislation billed as "anti riot." When a civil rights protest turns violent, will Gov. Ron DeSantis accept the argument that the perpetrators just got caught up in the moment?

Hardly. And no one who stormed the U.S. Capitol in an attempt to disrupt the certification of President Joe Biden's victory can blame anyone but themselves for the legal consequences they now face. The idea that a mob made them do it or that they're not responsible because of Trump's wild claims is laughable. And their violent attempt to subvert our democracy was deadly serious.

© 2021 Tampa Bay Times



US and Japan associations

The United States has a deep colonial and historical legacy relationship with the government of Japan. This relationship as it currently stands is centered around post-World War II military matters, economics, and energy. As is the case with South Korea, the United States-Japan partnership is based on the need for America to be able to exercise and exert influence throughout the Northeast Asian corridor. For Japan, this relationship enables Japanese firms to maintain access to American markets to sell goods and services. Japan and the United States have a mutual security treaty in place that outlines how America will come to Japan's aid should it be attacked.

The United States maintains a multitude of bases throughout Japan—like South Korea—housing tens of thousands of military personnel. This has produced domestic cross-currents of both support and opposition to the U.S. military presence among the Japanese population.

For the people of Okinawa Prefecture in particular, domestic basing of American military personnel and resources has been a very sensitive political topic. Okinawa Prefecture houses a disproportionate number of American military bases and an even greater percentage concentration of American military personnel in relation to all other locations throughout Japan.

Increased comity found in the U.S.-Japan relationship has orbited around aligned mutual security interests tied to readiness, ballistic missile defense, American basing of ships, the protection of commercial ocean-based transit routes, and the use of space-based weapons to defend Japan. As evidence of this trend, Japan continues to purchase greater amounts of its military weaponry from the United States and the Pentagon remains highly committed to further enhancing military readiness in the region.

Both Japan and the United States have the desire to see the entire Korean Peninsula denuclearized but based on the nature of policy constructs currently in place, this is something that will not be realized anytime in the foreseeable future.

China remains one central point of interest for the bilateral American-Japan partnership as it continues to grow militarily. North Korea is another central point of interest because of DPRK's desire to grow its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs.

Japan, as has been the case with South Korea, has at times contemplated developing its own organically produced nuclear weapons program in the event America decided to partially withdraw from the region.

Impact on the Marianas

The relationship of the Chamorro people with the country of Japan is one historically steeped in colonialism, extreme episodic violence, and longstanding cooperation. It is a relationship that has affected every single Chamorro Pacific Islander family

RICK'S COLUMN

By RICK PEREZ

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rick Perez used to serve in the U.S. military and has work experiences in public policy research and public affairs. He is passionate about national security and geopolitics and runs a newsletter called Guam Affairs at guamaffairs.substack.com. For questions or comments, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.



throughout the archipelago for over 100 years.

Today, the Marianas Islands-Japan relationship can be characterized through the lens of tourism, travel, business, and cultural/educational interchanges. In addition, many of our people love Japanese food and have long adopted several elements of Japanese cuisine into their diets, especially those from the Northern Marianas.

While these relationships are intrinsically important to our people, the broad strategic military security end state between the United States and Japan is now founded in part on the upcoming base relocation of thousands of Marines to Guam and to train throughout the archipelago.

This issue remains complex and sits poorly with many Chamorros, in part because of the lack of any real say and decision-making authority that has never been extended to our ancient Pacific Islander people. The risks of environmental damage to key natural resources such as fresh water, and the desecration and destruction of rare ancient Chamorro human and cultural resource corridors remain unresolved to the full satisfaction of our people.

It is important that we as Pacific Islanders remember that Japan-U.S. bilateral talks in response to the brutal 1995 rape of a 12-year-old girl by two Marines and a sailor in Okinawa has brought about tremendous consequences that are directly affecting us all.

The enormity of these consequences cannot be understated. Japan will contribute over \$3 billion to help defray housing relocation costs of select Marine units to Guam, while the United States and the government of Japan remain engaged with responding to Japanese opposition to other basing and environmental challenges particular to Okinawa.

What's next

Our Chamorro political leaders throughout the Marianas have the incentive to read and understand several aspects of the mili-

See US on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Life lessons from the Hundred Acre Wood

Editor's Note: The following is the text of the closing remarks the author delivered at the commencement ceremony of Mount Carmel School's Class of 2021.

Thirty years ago, I sat where you're sitting, having just graduated and ready to go out there and conquer the world. Twenty years ago, I stood here delivering my first commencement speech ever, right as I celebrated my 10-year class reunion and was getting ready to marry my beautiful wife. And about 10 years ago, I stood at that lectern right over there, my first year as president, welcoming you as third graders with the greeting you've come to know and love: "Good morning Mount Carmel School..."

And now, in just a few minutes, instead of welcoming you to Mount Carmel School, both you and I will say goodbye to our beloved alma mater. Funny how the time just flies by, right? One day, you're sitting in class, having a good laugh with dear friends, and the next day, you're here, shedding tears as you cling to each other, unwilling to let go.

So how do we say goodbye? How can we? To tell you the truth, I have no idea how. But, maybe the how is not as important as the why. And, standing here, before you, I find myself compelled to explain why I, myself, am saying goodbye to Mount Carmel School. Perhaps, in sharing my reasons, you will find reasons that resonate with you.

Many people know why I'm heading up to NMC. But that begs a question: Why leave MCS? I've been telling a lot of people a lot of things. It's my chance to grow professionally. I've given so many years to the school that it's time that I moved on to other things. I feel like I can help NMC in the same way I've helped MCS. Those are all true, but they're not the whole truth. No, in order to get at the whole truth, we need to take a field trip... to the Hundred Acre Wood.

Do any of you know where that is? The Hundred Acre Wood is the fictional home of Winnie the Pooh, created by the author A. A. Milne. It's a forest where Christopher Robin would retreat to as a child in order to process important lessons about life, and death, and everything in between, with Pooh Bear and all his friends.

Indeed, like with most children's literature, there is much we can learn from the fictional world of the Hundred Acre Wood. So, if it's okay with you, I'd like to take us there and share some valuable life lessons as articulated by the colorful characters that live in that magical forest.

Lesson #1 comes from Piglet: "The things that make me different are the things that make me, me."

What I love about Winnie the Pooh and his friends is that they are such a diverse set of characters that reflect a diverse set of characteristics. You have Pooh Bear, who is a little slow and

somewhat naive, but also very thoughtful and very caring, and always very, very hungry. You also have Tigger, who is full of energy and constantly bouncing around, but sometimes is too fast and too careless for his own good, occasionally causing mayhem and accidents. Then there's Eeyore, who is pessimistic and depressing, but also very compassionate and empathetic to others experiencing sadness or misfortune. And you have many other characters, like Piglet, Rabbit, Kanga, and Kanga's child, Roo, all of whom remind us that we all come in many shapes and many sizes with many personalities. And, as Piglet notes, what makes us different is also what makes us who we are. In that sense, the Hundred Acre Wood teaches us all the value of diversity and inclusion and how to respect differences.

Lesson #2 comes from Christopher Robin: "You're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."

What a powerful lesson to teach young children. What a powerful lesson for all of us grown-ups to learn ourselves. What I appreciate about the tales and adventures in the Hundred Acre Wood is that no matter what challenges or disasters come their way, Winnie the Pooh and his friends bravely stand strong, and they always cleverly figure a way out of their problems. It can be as simple as helping Eeyore find his missing tail or as scary as facing the much dreaded Heffalump. Whatever it is, they always prove to be braver than they believe, stronger than they seem, and smarter than they think. So can we all.

And, finally, Lesson #3 comes from Eeyore: "After all, one can't complain. I have my friends."

The pack pessimist gives us this nugget of wisdom to remind us all that no matter what problems we may face, no matter what struggles we may encounter, as long as we have friends, we can't complain. That's probably the most endearing and enduring thing about the Hundred Acre Wood. It really is about this group of friends who always come together to help each other out. Or, as Eeyore so eloquently put it: "A little consideration, a little thought for others, makes all the difference." It does make a difference, all the difference in the world.

Which brings me back to the original question I started with: Why am I leaving Mount Carmel School? Why am I leaving all these friends? Let me tell you why: Because these friends, they leave too.

As great as the Hundred Acre Wood was, there came a time when Christopher Robin grew up and had to leave the forest and his friends. That is true of every single AlumKnight that has graduated from Mount Carmel School, which has been, in a way, our own Hundred Acre Wood. We've been here, a diverse group of close friends, helping students learn that they are braver, and stronger, and smarter than they ever realized. And, just as Christopher Robins grew up and left the Hundred Acre Wood, so have

happen and a lot of people would get hurt. The rule of law keeps people in order and accountable for their actions.

The rule of law also sets boundaries and gives us freedom but limits for safety. An example of this would be the speed limit. We are allowed to go any speed as long as it is safe and under the limit so no one gets hurt. Another example is guns. They are to protect you and your family in self-defense but you can't go running around shooting people.

If laws were not a thing most people would be afraid to go outside. People would not go to prison for murder or assault, the roads would be very dangerous. People would speed and not care about red lights and if they hit someone they would not get in trouble. However, there may be some cases where you need to speed during an emergency such as your wife getting birth or you need to get to a hospital.

It is not just these laws that help us but every law has a purpose, even though there are some unjust laws, most of them make sure we stay safe and do not get injured.

In conclusion laws are very important and help us every day.

By GALVIN DELEON GUERRERO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero is president of Mount Carmel School. In a few months, he will be moving to the Northern Marianas College where he will be its new president.



many AlumKnights.

And, to be honest with you, I have often felt sad, like Pooh Bear, after he's been left behind by his good friend, Christopher Robin. Despite all their adventures, despite all they've learned together, despite all that they've been through together, Christopher still leaves Pooh Bear behind. That hurts. It hurts a lot.

Most AlumKnights say they will stay in touch and will stay connected to us, their friends here, in Mount Carmel's Hundred Acre Wood. But most don't. Most just move on with their lives, leaving us—leaving me—behind, forgotten, abandoned. And even when they do come back to visit or when they reconnect, I'll admit: it's never the same, and it never will be. And that's really okay.

So, you ask, why am I leaving Mount Carmel School? Well, it's because I'm tired of being sadly left behind like Pooh Bear, and excited to move on like Christopher Robin. So should you. So should all of us.

We all need to grow. We all need to chart ahead. We all need to move on. Or, as Pooh Bear put it, "I always get to where I'm going by walking away from where I have been."

When we leave, you and I can take comfort in knowing that, like the Hundred Acre Wood, our alma mater will always be here. And so long as it's here, we must never forget where we came from, all that we learned here, everyone who has been there for us, and who we are, deep down inside, whether that be an optimistic Tigger, a pessimistic Eeyore, or an inquisitive Pooh Bear. Deep down inside, we are all Knights, and, together, we are Knight Strong.

So, as we say goodbye one last time, remember this final lesson from Pooh Bear: "How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

This truly is the hardest thing I've ever done.

Fellow AlumKnights, thank you, congratulations, and goodbye.

US

From Page 8

tary security relationship between Japan and the United States.

Our Pacific Island leaders have the incentive to read and familiarize themselves with the new Alliance Coordination Mechanism, a tool which outlines how both Japan and the United States will manage regional contingencies.

Our leaders also have the incentive to learn more about how Okinawans have dealt and managed tensions stemming from environmental damage, personal safety, crime, and aircraft noise associated with Pentagon-sponsored activities.

There is also the incentive to identify and appreciate the differences with how Japan-based laws are both applicable and non-applicable to U.S. military actions and personnel matters in-country, driven by an agreed-upon status of forces document.

These and other factors or concerns are constant reminders that the Japanese-U.S. relationship is a sensitive one. For Pacific Islanders, the same holds true for military-villager relations.

We should expect to see Guam get congressional funding for the construction of an Aegis ballistic missile defense shore-based system. Japan was going to act as host for a shore-based Aegis ballistic missile defense system but changed its mind not to move forward due to a variety of reasons ranging from local safety matters to government of Japan constitutional matters.

The U.S. Japan relationship remains extensive, complex, and evolving.

What would happen if these laws were not a thing

By WILL SOSA

SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: This essay won second place in the NMI Judiciary's 11th Annual Essay Contest in celebration of Law Day. The theme was "Advancing the Rule of Law, Now." The author recently finished 8th grade at the Saipan International School.

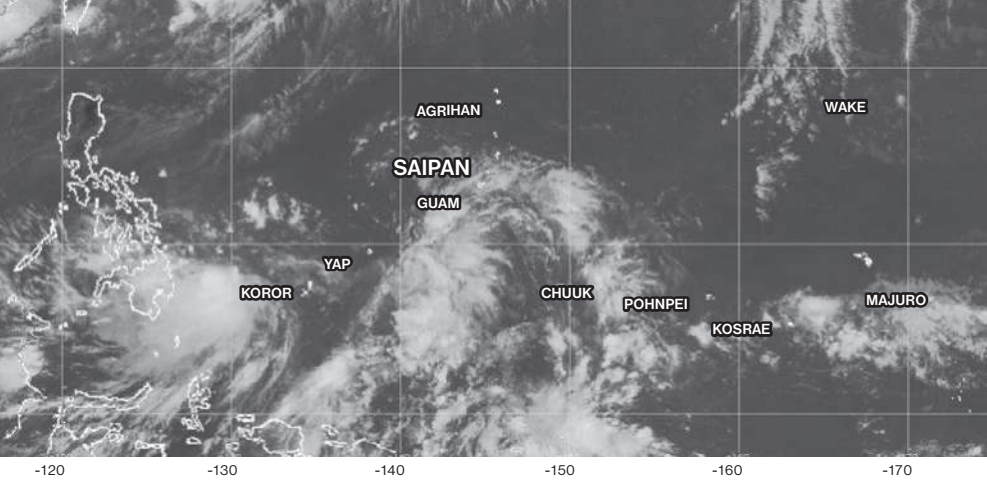
There are extreme cases with the law that can get you fined or sent to jail. I have never been in a situation where this has happened but my dad was pulled over once for speeding. This happened because it was during a dust storm and he did not want anyone to hit us and he did not realize that the limit was 30. This is a minor case and did not result in anything bad but was still an encounter with the law.

I believe that the rule of law is very important and it gives us a standard and gives us boundaries.

The rule of law is important because of the standard it gives. It tells us what we can and can't do. Without it a lot of crime would

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers for Guam and Rota. Isolated showers for Tinian and Saipan. East winds 10 to 15 mph. Lows around 78. Chance of showers 30 percent for Guam and Rota.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
86°	76°	89°	78°	89°	78°	89°	78°	89°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:04 AM, MONDAY, MAY 31, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level low, located just west of the Marianas, is interacting with tropical invest 90W south Guam. IR satellite shows a line of showers and thunderstorms between Rota and Tinian. Buoys show an easterly swell that is producing seas between 6 to 8 feet with a 9 second period.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly cloudy	89 80 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85 78 °F	
Yap	Thunderstorms	88 74 °F	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86 80 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86 79 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 81 °F	
Majuro	Partly cloudy	85 80 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Wednesday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Thursday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:16 AM	5:25 AM
Wednesday	12:20 AM	12:10 PM	-
Thursday	1:00 AM	1:00 PM	-
Friday	1:37 AM	1:48 PM	-
Saturday	2:12 AM	2:35 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly cloudy	62 51 °F	
Beijing	Mostly cloudy	91 78 °F	
Hong Kong	Mostly cloudy	85 80 °F	
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	84 74 °F	
London	Partly cloudy	72 52 °F	
Los Angeles	Partly cloudy	72 60 °F	
Manila	Partly cloudy	89 80 °F	
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	55 43 °F	
Miami	Partly cloudy	88 79 °F	
New York	Cloudy	78 59 °F	
Osaka	Partly cloudy	82 69 °F	
Paris	Partly cloudy	76 56 °F	
Pusan	Partly cloudy	88 65 °F	
Rome	Sunny	84 59 °F	
Salem	Partly cloudy	72 54 °F	
San Francisco	Partly cloudy	62 53 °F	
Seoul	Partly cloudy	80 62 °F	
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	81 69 °F	
Washington, DC	Sunny	82 59 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:32 AM	High Tide	2.04	
7:16 AM	Low Tide	1.36	
11:18 AM	High Tide	1.72	
6:50 PM	Low Tide	0.09	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 20, 2021									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6,		UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6,	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam		UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam	
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-GUAM				
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5		UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5	
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,		UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3	
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>									

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

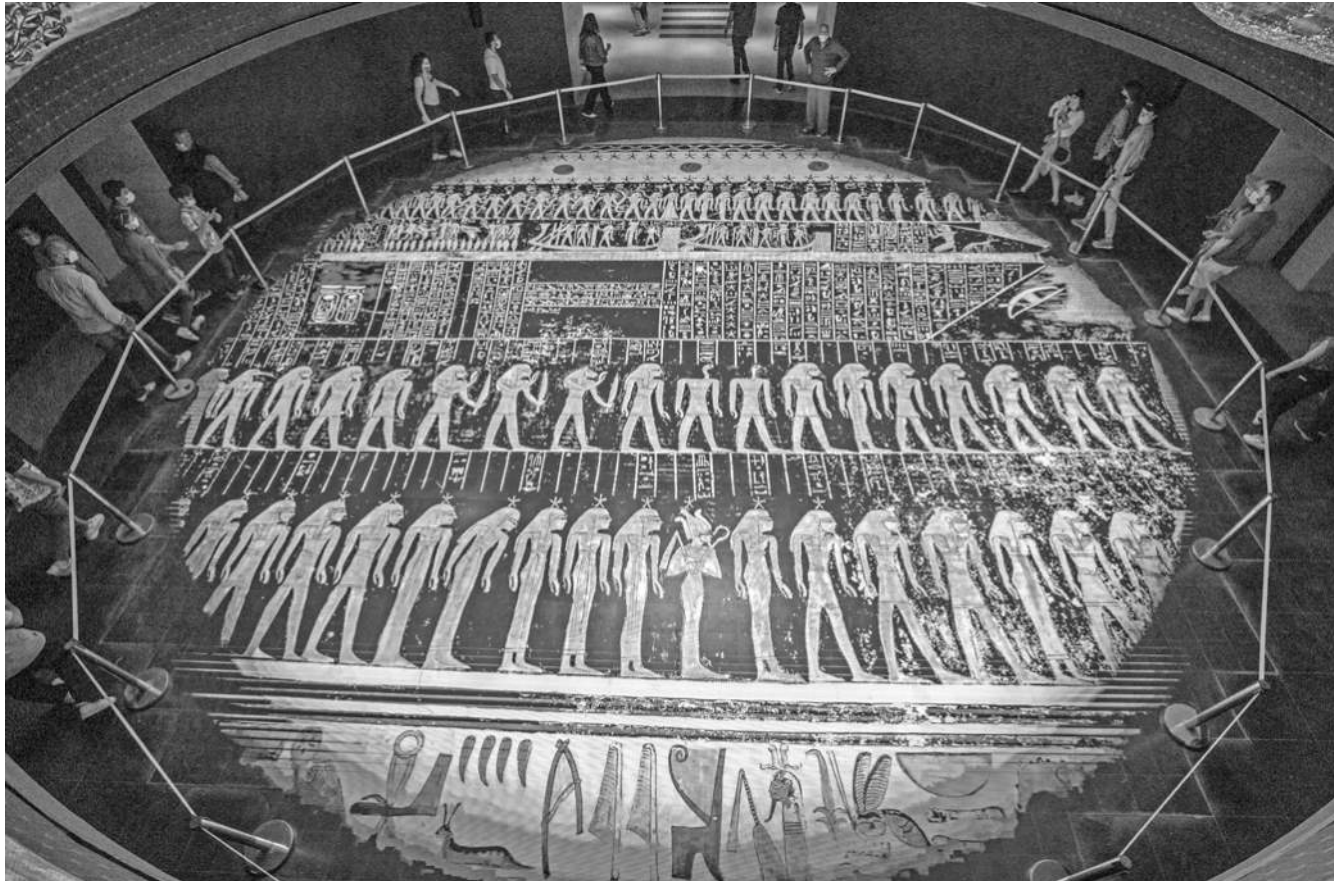
Business

Egypt bets on ancient finds to pull tourism out of pandemic

CAIRO (AP)—Workers dig and ferry wheelbarrows laden with sand to open a new shaft at a bustling archaeological site outside of Cairo, while a handful of Egyptian archaeologists supervise from garden chairs. The dig is at the foot of the Step Pyramid of Djoser, arguably the world's oldest pyramid, and is one of many recent excavations that are yielding troves of ancient artifacts from the country's largest archaeological site.

As some European countries reopen to international tourists, Egypt has already been trying for months to attract them to its archaeological sites and museums. Officials are betting that the new ancient discoveries will set it apart on the mid- and post-pandemic tourism market. They need visitors to come back in force to inject cash into the tourism industry, a pillar of the economy.

But like countries elsewhere, Egypt continues to battle the coronavirus, and is struggling to get its people vaccinated. The country has, up until now, received only 5



million vaccines for its population of 100 million people, according to its Health Ministry. In early May, the govern-

ment announced that 1 million people had been vaccinated, though that number is believed to be higher now.

In the meantime, authorities have kept the publicity machine running, focused on the new discoveries.

In November, archaeologists announced the discovery of at least 100 ancient coffins dating back to the Pharaonic Late Period and Greco-Ptolemaic era, along with 40 gilded statues found 2,500 years after they were first buried. That came a month after the discovery of 57 other coffins at the same site, the necropolis of Saqqara that includes the step pyramid.

"Saqqara is a treasure," said Tourism and Antiquities Minister Khaled el-Anany while announcing the November discovery, estimating that only 1% of what the site contains

has been unearthed so far.

"Our problem now is that we don't know how we can possibly wow the world after this," he said.

If they don't, it certainly won't be for lack of trying.

In April, Zahi Hawass, Egypt's best-known archaeologist, announced the discovery of a 3,000-year-old lost city in southern Luxor, complete with mud brick houses, artifacts and tools from pharaonic times. It dates back to Amenhotep III of the 18th dynasty, whose reign (1390–1353 B.C.) is considered a golden era for ancient Egypt.

That discovery was followed by a made-for-TV parade celebrating the transport of 22 of the country's prized royal mummies from central Cairo to their new resting place in a massive facility far-

ther south in the capital, the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization.

The Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh is now home to an archaeological museum, as is Cairo's International Airport, both opened in recent months. And officials have also said they still plan to open the massive new Grand Egyptian Museum next to the Giza Pyramids by January, after years of delays. Entrance fees for archeological sites have been lowered, as has the cost of tourist visas.

The government has for years played up its ancient history as a selling point, as part of a yearslong effort to revive the country's battered tourism industry. It was badly hit during and after the popular uprising that toppled longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak and the ensuing unrest. The coronavirus

AP
In this April 24, 2021 file photo, people visit the new National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Old Cairo, Saturday, April 24, 2021.

dealt it a similar blow, just as it was getting back on its feet.

In 2019, foreign tourism's revenue stood at \$13 billion. Egypt received some 13.1 million foreign tourists—reaching pre-2011 levels for the first time. But in 2020, it greeted only 3.5 million foreign tourists, according to the minister el-Anany.

At the newly opened National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, Mahmoud el-Rays, a tour guide, was leading a small group of European tourists at the hall housing the royal mummies.

"2019 was a fantastic year," he said. "But corona reversed everything. It is a massive blow."

Tourism traffic strengthened in the first months of 2021, el-Anany, the minister, told The Associated Press in a recent interview, though he did not give specific figures. He was optimistic that more would continue to come year-round.

"Egypt is a perfect destination for post-COVID in that our tourism is really an open-air tourism," he said.

But it remains to be seen if the country truly has the virus under control. It has recorded a total of 14,950 deaths from the virus and is still seeing more than a thousand new cases daily. Like other countries, the real numbers are believed to be much higher. In Egypt, though, authorities have arrested doctors and silenced critics who questioned the government's response, so there are fears that information on the true cost of the virus may have been suppressed from the beginning.

White House gives GOP 1 week to reach deal on infrastructure

WASHINGTON (AP)—Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said Sunday time is running short for a bipartisan deal on infrastructure, indicating that President Joe Biden will look to act without Republican support if there is no consensus when Congress returns from its Memorial Day break.

"By the time that they return, which is June 7, just a week from tomorrow, we need a clear direction," Buttigieg said. "The president keeps saying inaction is not an option. And time is not unlimited here." He said the American people "expect us to do something."

Biden plans to meet with lead Republican negotiator, Sen. Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia, this coming week and says he remains open to hearing from other GOP senators who are working on different proposals. But Biden has been eying the dwindling timeline for a deal, with an early June hearing scheduled on a House transportation bill that is widely seen as a building block for the big package he favors.

Democratic senators also plan on moving forward on a sweeping infrastructure package "with or without the support of Republican

senators," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., wrote to Democrats on Friday. Biden had originally set a Memorial Day deadline for reaching a deal before he let that deadline slip back.

The two sides remain far apart. Republican senators last week outlined a \$928 billion infrastructure proposal as a counteroffer to Biden's \$1.7 trillion proposal, and they said they would not go along with his plans to raise the corporate tax from 21% to 28% to pay for new spending.

Republicans want to shift unspent COVID-19 relief dollars to help cover the costs, a nonstarter for many Democrats and a proposal that Biden is finding unworkable, a White House adviser told The Associated Press on Friday.

On Sunday, Capito said she remained hopeful the two sides can move closer to agreement.

"I think we can get to real compromise, absolutely, because we're both still in the game," she said. "I think the president told me himself that let's get this done. We realize this is not easy. I think we bring every idea that's on the table into the negotiations to see how we can achieve this and get it across the threshold."

Buttigieg urges travelers to respect mask mandates on planes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg on Sunday urged travelers to respect flight attendants and other crew members who enforce federal mask mandates on planes, pledging strict federal enforcement against such abuse at a time of increasingly unruly behavior by passengers.

"The flight crews and other workers you encounter, they're doing their job," he said. "They're following regulations and they're there to keep you safe. It is absolutely unacceptable to ever mistreat a transportation worker."

"And of course, there's very serious fines and enforcement around that," Buttigieg added.

Buttigieg said the federal

mask mandate, which remains in effect on planes, buses and trains until Sept. 13, continues to be driven by public health considerations. He stressed that travelers should abide by it as both a matter of safety and respect to transportation workers.

"Part of it has to do with the unique conditions of the physical space," Buttigieg said, explaining the extra COVID-19 precautions for crowded spaces. "Part of it has to do with the conditions of it being a workplace, and folks who really don't have a choice about being there, the way it is in some other cases."

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines say that fully vaccinated people can go without face coverings inside

and outside various public areas.

"These rules and regulations and these bodies of guidance always evolve with the science," Buttigieg said.

His admonition comes after the Federal Aviation Administration announced last week it was proposing civil penalties as high as \$15,000 against five passengers for violations that included allegedly assaulting and yelling at flight attendants.

Southwest Airlines last week also banned a woman accused of punching a flight attendant shortly after a plane from Sacramento, California, landed in San Diego on May 23. The airline said the passenger ignored instructions from the flight attendant before assaulting her. San Diego Har-

bor Police arrested Vyvian Quinonez, 28, and charged her with felony battery.

Over the weekend, both Southwest and American Airlines said they would hold off on resuming alcoholic beverage services because of recent incidents of passenger disruption.

The FAA says reports of unruly passenger behavior has been on the rise this year as more travelers return to the skies. According to the agency, from Jan. 1 through May 24, there were roughly 2,500 reports of unruly behavior by passengers, including about 1,900 reports of people refusing to comply with the federal mask mandate.

Buttigieg spoke on ABC's "This Week" and CNN's "State of the Union."

Nation

For Biden, a deeply personal Memorial Day weekend observance

NEW CASTLE, Del. (AP)—President Joe Biden marked his first Memorial Day weekend as commander in chief by honoring the nation's sacrifices in a deeply personal manner as he paid tribute Sunday to those lost while remembering his late son Beau, a veteran who died six years ago to the day.

As a cold rain fell, Biden made his annual appearance at the commemoration in New Castle, not far from his Wilmington home, a day before he planned to do the same at Ar-

lington National Cemetery on the official observance.

The death of his son from brain cancer at age 46 is ever-present for the elder Biden, with the loss defining so much of his worldview, dotting his speeches and stirring his empathy for others in pain.

The Memorial Day weekend, long an important moment for Biden, took on added poignancy this year as the president spoke frequently and emotionally of his own loss while expressing the

gratitude of a nation for the sacrifices of others.

"I can't thank you enough for the continued service for the country," said Biden, addressing a crowd of Gold Star military families and other veterans in a ceremony at War Memorial Plaza in the shadow of the Delaware Memorial Bridge. "I know how much the loss hurts."

"They're the guardians of us and we're the guardians of their legacy," Biden said of those who served in the armed

forces. "Despite all the pain, I know the pride you feel in the loved one you have lost."

Though a tent was overhead, the cold wind whipped the rain onto the guests as they watched a lone military trumpeter play taps at a memorial to Delaware's fallen troops. Biden appeared to pay the chill no mind, remaining for the entirety of the 75-minute ceremony and mouthing the words to the closing rendition of "God Bless America." When it was time, he snapped

a salute to the wreath laid at the memorial.

Biden had attended the ceremony nearly every year for decades, and it was at last year's event when he emerged for the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, spotted with a mask while laying a wreath.

Hours before Sunday's ceremony, the president, first lady Jill Biden and other family members attended a memorial Mass for Beau Biden at their local church. After the service, the Bidens greeted well-wishers outside the church and, for the first time in more than a year, were able to receive warm hugs and handshakes at their home parish.

The Bidens walked to Beau's grave, which is on the property of St. Joseph's on the Brandywine, and left flowers amid several American flags

that had been placed on the well-manicured lawn next to the marker.

Beau Biden served two terms as Delaware's attorney general before declaring a run for governor, and many saw in him the same aspirations that brought his father to the White House. Beau Biden also served in Delaware's National Guard and, when sent to Iraq, received permission to wear a uniform emblazoned with a different last name so as not to receive special treatment.

That story, which Biden told Friday at a Virginia air force base, was one of the many moments in which Biden's son defined the Memorial Day weekend. After beginning with an emotional remembrance of his late son, Biden acknowledged the unheralded sacrifices made by the service members and their families.



President Joe Biden attends a Memorial Day event at Veterans Memorial Park at the Delaware Memorial Bridge in New Castle, Del., Sunday, May 30, 2021.

Tulsa pastors honor 'holy ground' 100 years after massacre

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—When white attackers destroyed the prosperous Black neighborhood of Greenwood 100 years ago this week, they bypassed the original sanctuary of the First Baptist Church of North Tulsa.

By the church's own account, the attackers thought the brick veneer structure was too fine for a Black-owned church. The mob destroyed at least a half-dozen other churches while burning and leveling a 35-square-block neighborhood in one of the nation's deadliest spasms of racist violence. Estimates of the death toll range from dozens to 300.

On Sunday, First Baptist's current sanctuary throbbed with a high-decibel service as six congregations gathered to mark the centennial of the massacre and to honor the persistence of the Black church tradition in Green-

wood, as shown in the pulsing worship, call-and-response preaching and heavy emphasis on social justice.

Greenwood is "holy ground," said the Rev. John Faison of Nashville, Tennessee, who preached at the service and is assistant to the bishop of social action for the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship.

He said the centennial both honors the victims of the massacre and "celebrates the resilience and the resurgence of an amazing people of God."

Similar commemorations took place at many houses of worship throughout Tulsa and across Oklahoma on Sunday, a day ahead of the official centennial dates. More civic activities are planned for Monday and Tuesday, including a candlelight vigil and a visit by President Joe Biden.

The commission that organized the centennial design-

nated Sunday as Unity Faith Day and provided a suggested worship guide that each congregation could adapt, including scriptures, prayers and the singing of "Amazing Grace."

Particularly at historically Black churches, speakers emphasized a call for financial reparations—both for the few centenarian survivors of the massacre and for the wider, economically struggling North Tulsa area, where the city's Black population is largely concentrated.

"The main problem is that our nation is always trying to have reconciliation without doing justice," Faison said. "Until repentance and repair are seen as inseparable, any attempt to reconcile will fail miserably."

The Rev. Robert Turner, pastor of nearby Vernon African Methodist Episcopal Church, which also traces its roots to before the massa-

cre, echoed that sentiment in an interview before his own church's service.

"It's not a tragedy that's left in 1921. It's a tragedy that continues to live each day that lacks justice," said Turner, who protests weekly outside Tulsa City Hall, calling both for reparations and for a posthumous criminal investigation of the massacre's perpetrators. Some churches on Sunday recognized 13 still-active congregations that operated in Greenwood in 1921, including many that had to rebuild their destroyed sanctuaries. Lists of the 13, under the heading "Faith Still Standing," are being distributed on posters and other merchandise.

"We don't want it ever to happen again anywhere," said the Rev. Donna Jackson, an organizer of the recognition.

Some historically white churches also observed the centennial.

In South Florida, shootings usher in bloody holiday weekend

MIAMI (AP)—Violence ushered in the Memorial Day weekend in South Florida, when gunmen indiscriminately sprayed bullets into crowds at two Miami venues. Two people died and at least 20 others were injured early Sunday morning during a shooting outside a banquet hall, about a day after a drive-by shooting killed one person and injured six.

Authorities called on the public to help identify the shooters.

"This type of gun violence has to stop. Every weekend it's the same thing," said the police director of Miami-Dade County, Alfredo "Freddy" Ramirez III, whose officers were hunting down three suspects believed to have been involved in Sunday's violence.

"These are cold blooded murderers that shot indiscriminately into a crowd and we will seek justice," Ramirez said in a tweet.

Two people died at the scene, police said. As many as 25 people went to various hospitals for treatment.

Clayton Dillard and his family waited outside the El Mula Banquet Hall in northwest Miami-Dade County, where Sunday's shooting took place shortly after midnight, hoping for news about a loved one they feared was among the two fatalities.

"I know he's there," Dillard said, "but they won't let me come claim him."

As of Sunday afternoon, police had not released the

names of the victims, whose bodies were awaiting to be removed from the scene—more than 16 hours after the shots rang out outside the banquet hall, which had been rented out for a concert.

Police said the gunfire began when three people got out of an SUV shortly after midnight and shot into a crowd with assault rifles and handguns. The shooting was targeted, Ramirez said, but did not elaborate.

More than two dozen people crowded behind yellow police tape and a line of squad cars as police continued their investigation into Sunday evening.

Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis joined in mourning, saying on Twitter he was "praying for the recovery" of the victims and pledged help from state authorities.

"We are working with local authorities to bring justice to the perpetrators. Justice needs to be swift & severe!" DeSantis tweeted.

Businessman and TV personality Marcus Lemonis, star of "The Profit," took to Twitter to offer a \$100,000 reward to help authorities capture the suspects.

Sunday's shooting came a little over a day after a drive-by shooting claimed the life of one person outside another venue about 13 miles away in the Wynwood area. Six others were injured. Some witnesses likened the scene to a "war zone" after a barrage of dozens of bullets sent people scurrying in the night.

Asia



In this May 21, 2021, file photo, President Joe Biden listens as South Korean President Moon Jae-in speaks during a joint news conference in the East Room of the White House, in Washington. AP

FOR S. KOREAN MISSILE DECISION

North accuses US of hostility

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Monday the U.S. allowing South Korea to build more powerful missiles was an example of the U.S.'s hostile policy against the North, warning that it could lead to an "acute and instable situation" on the Korean Peninsula.

It's North Korea's first response to the May 21 summit between the leaders of the United States and South Korea, during which the U.S. ended decades-long restrictions that capped South Korea's missile development and allowed its ally to develop weapons with unlimited ranges.

The accusation of U.S. policy being hostile to North Korea matters because it said it won't return to talks and would enlarge its nuclear arsenal as long as U.S. hostility persists. But the latest statement was still attributed to an individual commentator, not a government body, suggesting North Korea may still want to leave room for potential diplomacy with the Biden administration.

"The termination step is

a stark reminder of the U.S. hostile policy toward (North Korea) and its shameful double-dealing," Kim Myong Chol, an international affairs critic, said, according to the official Korean Central News Agency. "It is engrossed in confrontation despite its lip-service to dialogue."

"The U.S. is mistaken, however. It is a serious blunder for it to pressurize (North Korea) by creating asymmetric imbalance in and around the Korean Peninsula as this may lead to the acute and instable situation on the Korean Peninsula now technically at war," he said.

The United States had previously barred South Korea from developing a missile with a range of longer than 800 kilometers (500 miles) out of concerns about a regional arms race. The range is enough for a South Korean weapon to strike all of North Korea but is short of hitting potential key targets in other neighbors like China and Japan.

Some South Korean observers hailed the end of the restrictions as restoring military sov-

ereignty, but others suspected the U.S. intent was to boost its ally's military capability amid a rivalry with China.

The commentator Kim accused Washington of trying to spark an arms race, thwart North Korean development and deploy intermediate-range missiles targeting countries near North Korea.

The South Korean government said it "prudently watches" North Korea's reaction, but Unification Ministry spokeswoman Lee Jong-joo wouldn't comment otherwise, since the remarks were attributed to an individual, not an official statement from the North Korean government.

The North Korean statement comes as the Biden administration shapes a new approach on North Korea amid long-dormant talks over the North's nuclear program. During their summit, Biden and South Korean President Moon Jae-in said a new U.S. policy review on North Korea "takes a calibrated and practical approach that is open to and will explore diplomacy" with the North.

earliest groups of astronauts.

Asked whether women would be in the crew, Yang said, "on Shenzhou 12 we don't have them, but missions after that all will have them."

The Tianzhou-2 spacecraft that docked with Tianhe on Sunday carried 6.8 tons of cargo including space suits, food and equipment for the astronauts and fuel for the station, according to the space program.

The space agency plans a total of 11 launches through the end of next year to deliver two more modules for the 70-ton station, supplies and the crew.

World

Israel, Egypt talk truce with Hamas

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt and Israel held high-level talks in both countries Sunday to shore up a fragile truce between Israel and the Hamas militant group and rebuild the Gaza Strip after a punishing 11-day war that left parts of the seaside enclave in ruins.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shukry received his Israeli counterpart, Gabi Ashkenazi, in Cairo. The meeting is part of an effort to build on an Israel-Hamas cease-fire reached May 21 and to revive Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, which have been dormant for more than a decade, Shukry's office said. Egypt has not said how it would be able to restart talks.

The hours-long visit was the first public one by an Israeli foreign minister to Egypt since 2008, according to the Israeli Embassy in Cairo.

Spokesman Ahmed Hafez said Shukry called for establishing an atmosphere to relaunch "serious and constructive" negotiations between the two sides. He also urged both sides to refrain from "any measures" that could hamper efforts to revive peace talks.

They also discussed the release of Israeli soldiers and citizens being held by Hamas, Israel's top diplomat said.

"We all need to act to prevent strengthening extremist

elements that threaten regional stability, and to ensure the return home of the missing persons and prisoners held by Hamas," Ashkenazi said.

He also criticized the Palestinian Authority over its moves at the International Criminal Court and the U.N. Human Rights Council, saying such activity damages the chances of future cooperation.

Ashkenazi alleged that Palestinian war crimes complaints against Israel—filed over its military conduct since a 2014 war with Hamas and ongoing settlement construction—are an obstacle to political dialogue. The ICC is investigating both Israel and Hamas for possible war crimes. Hamas is under investigation for random rocket fire toward Israeli communities.

Despite cease-fire talks, Hamas and the smaller militant group Islamic Jihad have staged weapons parades in a show of force. On Sunday, thousands attended a Hamas rally in the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahiya, where masked militants displayed rockets, launchers and drones.

Hamas is holding the remains of two Israeli soldiers killed in a 2014 war. It also is holding two Israeli civilians who were captured after entering Gaza.

As part of the cease-fire efforts, Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu hosted Abbas Kamel, Egypt's intelligence chief, in Jerusalem. Netanyahu said he had raised the issue of returning the remains of soldiers and the two civilians as well as Israeli demands to prevent Hamas from gaining strength or diverting resources meant for the civilian population.

An Egyptian official said Kamel would also meet with Palestinian officials in the West Bank before heading to Gaza for talks with Hamas leaders. The intelligence agency, which is Egypt's equivalent of the CIA, usually handles Egypt's ties with Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups in Gaza.

Egypt's state-run MENA news agency said Kamel would convey a message from el-Sissi to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, affirming "Egypt's full support to the Palestinian people."

It said Cairo would host talks among Palestinian factions to achieve unity between those in Gaza and the Israeli-occupied areas of the West Bank. The report did not provide further details.

During a visit to the region last week, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said he was seeking to bolster Abbas and weaken Hamas as part of the cease-fire efforts.

Canada lowers flags after discovery of bodies at school site

TORONTO (AP)—Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau asked Sunday that flags at all federal buildings be flown at half-staff to honor more than 200 children whose remains have been found buried at what was once Canada's largest Indigenous residential school—one of the institutions that held children taken from families across the nation.

The Peace Tower flag on Parliament Hill in the nation's capital of Ottawa was among those lowered to half-staff.

"To honor the 215 children whose lives were taken at the former Kamloops residential school and all Indigenous children who never made it home, the survivors, and their families, I have asked that the Peace Tower and all federal buildings be flown at half-mast," Trudeau tweeted.

Mayors of communities across Ontario, including

Toronto, Ottawa, Mississauga and Brampton, also ordered flags lowered to honor the children.

Chief Rosanne Casimir of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc First Nation in British Columbia said the remains of 215 children, some as young as 3 years old, were confirmed last weekend with the help of ground-penetrating radar.

She described the discovery as "an unthinkable loss that was spoken about but never documented at the Kamloops Indian Residential School."

From the 19th century until the 1970s, more than 150,000 First Nations children were required to attend state-funded Christian schools as part of a program to assimilate them into Canadian society. They were forced to convert to Christianity and not allowed to speak their native languages.

Many were beaten and verbally abused, and up to 6,000 are said to have died.

The Canadian government apologized in Parliament in 2008 and admitted that physical and sexual abuse in the schools was rampant. Many students recalled being beaten for speaking their native languages. They also lost touch with their parents and customs.

Indigenous leaders have cited that legacy of abuse and isolation as the root cause of epidemic rates of alcoholism and drug addiction on reservations.

Plans are underway to bring in forensics experts to identify and repatriate the remains of the children found buried on the site.

The Kamloops school operated between 1890 and 1969, when the federal government took over operations from the Catholic Church and operated it as a day school until it closed in 1978.

China to send 3 male astronauts to its space station in June

BEIJING (AP)—A three-man crew of astronauts will blast off in June for a three-month mission on China's new space station, according to a space official who was the country's first astronaut in orbit.

The plans for the station's first crew were confirmed to state television by Yang Liwei, the manned space program's deputy chief designer, as an automated spacecraft was launched with fuel and supplies for the Tianhe station.

The Tianhe, or Heavenly Harmony, is the third and largest space station launched by China's increasingly ambi-

tious space program. Its core module was launched into orbit April 29.

The Shenzhou 12 capsule carrying the crew will be launched from the Jiuquan base in China's northwest next month, Yang said in comments broadcast Saturday by China Central Television.

They will practice spacewalks and conduct repairs and maintenance as well as scientific operations.

Yang, who orbited Earth in 2003, gave no details of the astronauts' identities or a flight date and said the crew will come from the program's two

Overdrive



Acura TLX Type S unveiled. While riding shotgun. With Helio Castroneves at the wheel

The 2021 Acura TLX Type S features 20-inch multi-spoke wheels with Pirelli Cinturato P7 all-Season tires.

(HONDA/TNS)

By HENRY PAYNE
THE DETROIT NEWS

LEXINGTON, Ohio—“Yahoooooo!” yelled Helio Castroneves as we hit 117 mph in the new Acura TLX

Type S on the back straight of the Mid-Ohio race course. Hard on the Brembo brakes, he crested blind Turn 9, then flattened the throttle. “Love the grip!” he said of Acura’s signature, sophisticated all-

wheel-drive system.

Say hello to the ferocious, 355-horsepower Type S, the first performance sedan from Acura in over a decade. And say hello to the post-auto show world of car debuts.

Rather than unveil the long-awaited, 2021 TLX Type S at a static car show display, media members like me got to experience the beast from the right-hand seat. Under the lash of the one of the world’s

premier race jockeys. In front of thousands of racing fans at IMSA WeatherTech’s annual Mid-Ohio speed-fest.

The Type S debut was more than a coming-out party. It was the intersection of three 21st century auto trends: the shift to experiential car premieres, the marriage of racing and production cars, and the integration of foreign automakers in America’s heartland.

Acura last debuted a performance car in 2015 at the Detroit Auto Show. There were videos. A light display. The NSX supercar on a turntable. Celebrity exotic car collector Jerry Seinfeld was in attendance.

This time, the celerity was at the wheel on a race track.

Adding to the excitement, Castroneves—the winner of four Indy 500s, not to mention “Dancing with the Stars”—had never driven the car.

Castroneves gunned the turbo V-6, and we were off, the Brazilian ringing its neck like the Acura ARX-05 dPi prototype race car he won with at Mid-Ohio here a year ago. “Awright, here we go into Turn 1,” cheered the veteran, who will enter his 21st Indy 500 at the end of this month.

Type S was appropriately unveiled here at a track that Acura race has dominated. The dPi racer was part of a full-court press by Acura to return the brand to its performance roots after losing its way at the dawn of the 21st century.

Not only did Acura develop a halo, \$160k, mid-engine NSX supercar sequel to the 1990 legend that wowed the world, it also developed a GT race version for the IMSA series. Not content with that, Acura also entered the ARX-05 at the pinnacle of U.S. motorsport—a 600-horsepower, winged weapon that won the last two IMSA championships under Team Penske’s management.

Type S, aimed at European athletes like the Audi S4 and BMW M340i in the heart of the luxury market, is the production beneficiary of that performance investment.

“I’m excited to try it,” said Castroneves ahead of our Type S test. “A lot that we have learned in sports car racing has been applied to this car.”

Based on the \$38,525 TLX sedan, the 4,221-pound Type S is stiffer and wider—its fenders engorged with 20-inch wheels rapped in Pirelli P Zero summer tires. Behind the menacing, black Diamond Pentagon grille beats a 3.0-liter turbo V-6 unique to the Type S—and a major upgrade over the base TLX’s 272-horse turbo 4. The V-6 is a close cousin

NUTS & BOLTS

2021 Acura TLX Type S

- **Vehicle type:** Front engine, all-wheel-drive, five-passenger sedan
- **Price:** est. \$50,000-\$60,000
- **Powerplant:** 3.0-liter turbo V-6
- **Power:** 355 horsepower, 354 pound-feet torque
- **Transmission:** 10-speed automatic
- **Performance:** 0-60 mph, about 5 seconds (mnfr.); top speed, 155 mph
- **Weight:** 4,221 pounds

to the 3.5-liter, twin-turbo V-6 that makes 600-horsepower in the Acura dPi.

Interestingly, Type S does not follow the NSX supercar with hybrid drivetrain. The next-gen Acura prototype racer, due in 2023, is expected to utilize hybrid technology

“I love how the car handles,” said Castroneves later as we weaved through the Acura race team’s garage—mechanics feverishly preparing the race car for battle later that day. Following my ride, he had given other journalists hot laps. “With each lap, I was giving it more. It handled very flat, very stable. Acura does everything so simple—the car was easy to learn.”

Having seen the Type S on the track, race fans in attendance could see it up close—along with the rest of Acura’s lineup—at a pop-up “showroom” at Mid-Ohio. There, visitors could get in the cars, do laps on a simulator, and fill out an Acura customer survey.

Like at an auto show.

Auto shows have been laid low by the coronavirus pandemic—but were already struggling as social media and experiential opportunities have allowed brands like Acura to do more customer-targeted events. Auto shows are coming back to life—see Chicago July 15-19—but they are no longer the exclusive domain of auto debuts.

The Midwest is also no longer exclusively Detroit Three manufacturing. Indeed, Ohio is Honda/Acura country—the track is just an hour northeast of Marysville, where Type S is built alongside the TLX, ILX sedan and Honda Accord. A stone’s throw away from Marysville is the Performance Manufacturing Center, where NSX is hand-built. Drive further west to East Liberty, and the Japanese transplant churns out Acura’s RDX compact SUV, MDX three-row SUV and Honda’s mega-selling CR-V SUV.

† Carol Ann Rohringer



We, the family of Carol Ann Rohringer, would like to inform our relatives and friends that our beloved mother passed away peacefully on May 29, 2021. Born on a farm in rural Wisconsin in 1935, she was proudly the first female member of the family to graduate from university, with a Bachelor of Physical Therapy, University of Wisconsin. She settled in Winnipeg, Canada, where she raised her family. Her last great adventure was in Saipan where she could be with both of her sons. She met many new friends in Saipan, for which she particularly expressed gratitude for their kindness.

She is survived by sons Carl (wife Ramona), Martin (wife Rose), and grandchildren Samantha & Sean.

The family appreciates the kindness and care provided by the staff at CHCC

Life & Style

Fueling box office rebound, 'Quiet Place' opens with \$58.5M

NEW YORK (AP)—Moviegoing increasingly looks like it didn't die during the pandemic. It just went into hibernation.

John Krasinski's thriller sequel "A Quiet Place Part II" opened over the Memorial Day weekend to a pandemic-best \$48.4 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. Including the Monday holiday, the studio forecasts the film will gross \$58.5 million in North America. It added another \$22 million in ticket sales overseas.

The film's performance cheered a movie industry that has been punished and transformed by the pandemic. Paramount Pictures' "A Quiet Place Part II," which was on the cusp of opening in March 2021 before theaters shut, was the first big film this year—and one of the only larger budget COVID-era releases beside Christo-



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows, from left, Noah Jupe, Millicent Simmonds and Emily Blunt in a scene from "A Quiet Place Part II."

JONNY COURNOYER/PARAMOUNT PICTURES VIA AP

pher Nolan's "Tenet"—to open exclusively in theaters.

Chris Aronson, distribution chief for Paramount,

called the opening "an unqualified success."

"It's a huge sigh of a relief and a sense of optimism for

sure," Aronson said. "Movies, moviegoing, movie theaters aren't dead. Yes, they've been threatened but they're prov-

ing once again that they're resilient and that people do want to have that communal experience."

Many studios have trotted out hybrid release plans during the pandemic, debuting films simultaneously in the home. The Walt Disney Co. did that this weekend with its live-action PG-13 Cruella De Vil prequel, "Cruella," making it available to Disney+ subscribers for \$30. In theaters, it grossed \$21.3 million, Disney said, and an estimated \$26.4 million over the four-day weekend. "Cruella" also added \$16.1 million in 29 international territories. Disney didn't say how much the film made on the company's streaming platform.

"A Quiet Place II" will also turn to streaming after 45 days in theaters when it becomes available on Paramount+. One clear result of the pandemic is

that the theatrical window has shrunk, probably permanently. Three months was once the customary length of a movie's run in theaters. The year's previous best debut belonged to Warner Bros.' "Godzilla vs. Kong," which opened with \$32.2 million, or \$48.5 million over its first five days, while simultaneously streaming on HBO Max.

The contrasting release strategies between "A Quiet Place Part II" and "Cruella" offered a test case for Hollywood. How much does a day-and-date release cost a movie like "Cruella" in ticket sales? Is it worth it? Without knowing how much "Cruella" benefitted Disney+, a true comparison isn't possible. But the strong returns for the theater-only "A Quiet Place Part II" are telling, says Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for data firm Comscore.

Religious leaders, artists honor George Floyd in concert

HOUSTON (AP)—Religious leaders, musical guests, spoken word artists and politicians gathered for a concert in Houston, the home town of George Floyd, to commemorate the anniversary of his death.

Pastors Remus E. Wright and Mia K. Wright welcomed the Floyd family on Sunday at The Fountain of Praise, a church that held one of his funeral services, and more than 450 live viewers on Facebook.

"It's been an incredible year and a very emotional year, so much grief and loss, so much angst and anxiety, worldwide protests, the in-

surrection at the Capitol, but I guarantee you one thing—that none of us will forget May 25, 2020, the day that George Floyd's life was taken from us," Mia Wright said.

Floyd, who was Black, died last year after a white Minneapolis police officer, Derek Chauvin, knelt on his neck, pinning him to the ground for about 9 1/2 minutes as Floyd pleaded for air. Floyd's death sparked worldwide protests and calls for change in policing in the U.S. Chauvin was fired after Floyd died and was later convicted of murder and manslaughter in his death.

"The tragedy of his mur-

der becomes even more profound as your strength in seeking justice sparked a reckoning too long overdue," voting rights advocate Stacey Abrams said of the Floyd family.

Among the guests were Democratic politicians U.S. Rep. Al Green, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, Houston Vice Mayor Pro-Tem Martha Castex-Tatum and Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis and musical guests Trae Tha Truth, Grammy-nominated artists Gene Moore Jr. and Major and Grammy Award-winning gospel singer Tamela Mann.

Ex-'Tarzan' actor among 7 plane crash victims in Tennessee

SMYRNA, Tenn. (AP)—Investigators on Sunday continued searching for the bodies of seven people believed killed in the crash a day earlier of a small jet into a Tennessee lake, including an actor who portrayed Tarzan in a 1990s television series.

Rutherford County Fire Rescue Capt. John Ingle said in a statement Sunday that recovery efforts were ongoing at Percy Priest Lake near Smyrna. He said efforts also were focused on examining a half mile-wide debris field in the lake.

County officials identified the victims in a news release late Saturday as Brandon Han-

nah, Gwen S. Lara, William J. Lara, David L. Martin, Jennifer J. Martin, Jessica Walters and Jonathan Walters, all of Brentwood, Tennessee. Their names were released after family members had been notified.

Gwen Shamblin Lara founded the Remnant Fellowship Church in Brentwood in 1999 and wrote a faith-based weight loss book. Her husband of nearly three years, known as Joe Lara, was an actor featured in the TV series "Tarzan: The Epic Adventures."

The Federal Aviation Administration said the Cessna C501 plane was heading from nearby Smyrna Ruther-

ford County Airport to Palm Beach International Airport when it crashed Saturday morning. Authorities did not release registration information for the plane.

Smyrna is located about 20 miles (32 kilometers) southeast of Nashville. Percy Priest Lake is a reservoir created by the J. Percy Priest Dam. It is a popular spot for boating and fishing.

"With dive teams in the water, we are strongly urging civilian boaters to stay away from the public safety boats," Ingle said.

The National Transportation Safety Board had a lead investigator at the site.

Friend deflects unwanted questions by lying

DEAR ABBY: I went to lunch with "Anita," who proceeded to question me about how I know my friend "Gail." It seems like an innocent question, but Gail and I met in Alcoholics Anonymous. I didn't tell Anita we met in AA because it would've destroyed Gail's anonymity, so I said we met through mutual friends.

I didn't mind one question, but Anita kept probing about "mutual friends." I wound up fibbing and saying, "folks at my church." It managed to change the direction of the conversation, but I wish people wouldn't pry like that. This also happens when I'm at a party and someone asks me why I'm not drinking. It's easy to respond to one question with a general answer, but a lot of times I encounter folks who keep pushing.

I would like to encourage your readers to be sensitive to these kinds of situations and to allow people their privacy. Thanks, Abby.

ANONYMOUS AND SOBER IN THE SOUTH

DEAR ANONYMOUS: So would I, and you're welcome. There is no shortage of nosy questions that people don't hesitate to ask these days, as anyone who has read this column is aware. However, to many people, membership in AA is a badge of honor. When "pushed" to answer why they are not drinking alcohol they are upfront about the fact they are in AA. Of course, one does not have to have a drinking

problem to avoid alcohol. Some people refrain because they don't feel well when they drink; others do it because they are taking antibiotics or want to live a healthier lifestyle. The bottom line is, you do not have to answer every question that's asked of you.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When my husband of 19 years died suddenly 15 months ago (we had no children), my financial situation changed considerably. I have had trouble paying bills, and my water was turned off this morning. When I told my siblings and their families, their answers ranged from "I can't help you," to "Gee, that sucks!" to "Come have meatloaf for dinner."

My niece, who is financially well-off, commented that it sucked. I told them all that I HAVE NO WATER. I do have a five-day-a-week job. I just don't have a lot of money because of so many things that have happened. I'll have the money in a week or so, but I can't live without water for that long.

Is it wrong to want them to offer to help me? Am I expecting too much? If the situation were reversed, I would offer help immediately.

IN A TOUGH SPOT IN KENTUCKY

DEAR TOUGH SPOT: Please accept my deepest sympathy for the loss of your husband. No, it's not wrong to

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



want your relatives to offer to help you out with a bridge loan until the money you're expecting arrives. However, because they didn't offer, ASK them for one, and be willing to sign a note if they wish. Then cross your fingers that one of them agrees. If none of them do, approach your employer and ask for an advance on your salary, or contact the water company and ask if you can strike a deal. I wish you luck.

■ ■ ■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

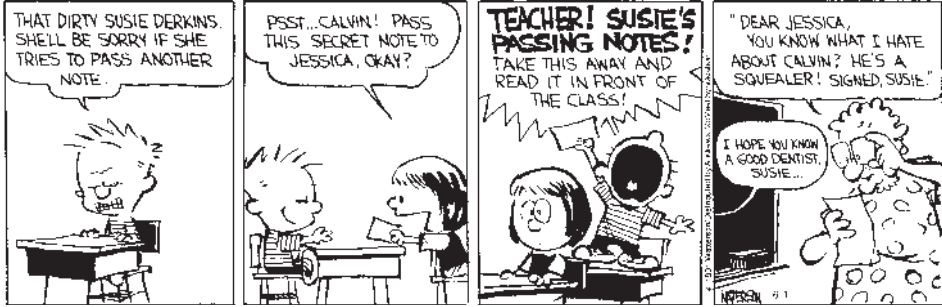
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

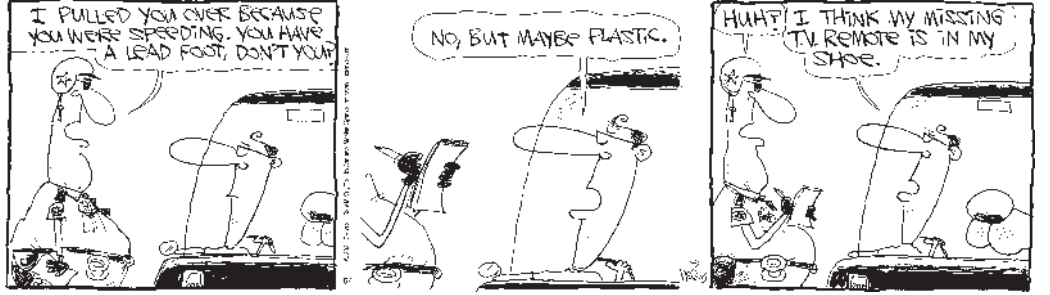
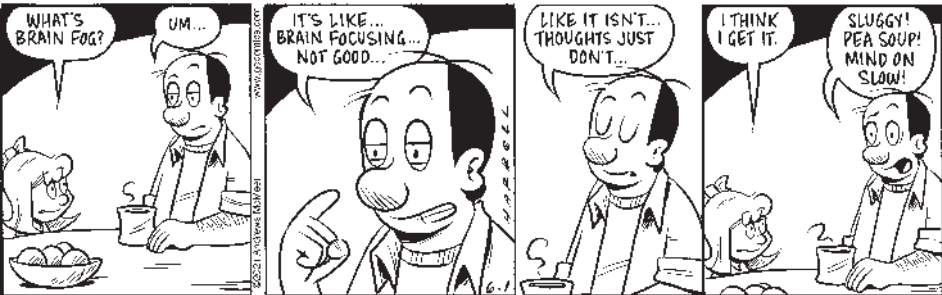


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- Papa's mate
- Writer Harper
- Blind part
- Muscat's land
- Statelty tree
- Had on
- Screen behind home plate
- Sea predator
- Set afire
- Selfishness
- Brown shade
- Ladies of Spain (Abbr.)
- Low digits
- Cautionary street sign
- Chest-beating beast
- Computers from Taiwan
- "Shoo!"
- Words from a risk-taker

DOWN

- Pro-scribes
- Synagogue
- Like many
- Radiation-emitting star
- Poke
- Location
- Returns
- June 6, 1944
- First lady?
- Places
- Phoenix cagers
- Enervate
- "Born Free" lioness
- Unruly group
- Docs' org.
- PC alternative
- Leg joints
- Riga native
- "Xanadu" band
- Rulers of Japan
- Nike symbol
- Chicago Mayor — Lightfoot
- Curved lines
- Squad
- Army address
- Openings
- Nevada neighbor
- Sulk
- Tavern order
- Knife material
- Plagues
- "Manhattan Beach" author Jennifer
- Hockey venue
- Online crafts site
- Turkish title
- Op-ed pieces
- Cham-pagne feature
- Possesses language
- Cushions
- Pakistan's language
- Low-fat
- "M*A*S*H" vehicle
- Eggs
- "You've got mail" co.
- IV measures
- Sporgate maker

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-1

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Wil-low Shields, 21; Amy Schumer, 40; Heidi Klum, 48; Morgan Freeman, 84.

Happy Birthday: Show discipline, follow through with your plans, and refuse to let overindulgence and overreaction take over. It's up to you to make the most out of what you have to work with if you want to excel this year. Nothing is for keeps or easy, but if you work hard, you will end up reaping the rewards. Romance and commitment are favored. Your numbers are 6, 13, 24, 28, 35, 44, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll receive important information through a friendly conversation. Take the high road if someone says something unkind. Patience will pay off and help you get your way in the end. Concentrate on self-improvement, not trying to change others. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Set your sights on what and who can help you get ahead. Show compassion and understanding; you'll get exactly what you want. An unexpected change at work or to the way you handle money will pay off. Make a home improvement. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Observation will help you avoid a sticky situation. Knowledge is key when it comes to getting ahead and making a good impression. Don't expect anything from others, and promise only what's possible. Protect your reputation and position. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take a chance and try something you've never done. Explore avenues that allow you to

use your imagination, and let your creativity flow. A change may be frightening, but it will lead to personal growth. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Hang on to your cash. A spending spree won't make you feel better. Do your best to tuck away money for something that will benefit you mentally, physically, emotionally or financially. A penny saved is a penny earned. Self-improvement is favored. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Enforce change, but before you do, make sure you aren't disrupting someone's life or emotional well-being. Honesty, integrity and concern for others will help you gain approval and the help you require to put your plans in motion. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll learn plenty if you sit back and observe. Moderation will be the key to living up to your expectations and the promises you make. Focus on education, personal growth and getting along with others. Everything will fall into place. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take more time to make your home comfortable. Decluttering your space will make it easier to head in a direction you find inviting. A move may seem impossible, but once you take a few steps forward, you'll gain momentum. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Think twice before you share your thoughts and opinions with others. Someone will use your openness to interfere with your plans. A minimalist attitude will help you bypass financial stress. A partnership will need an

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



adjustment. Make honesty and moderation your priorities. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't be fooled by what others say or do. An offer may sound amazing, but in the end, it will lack fundamental qualities you don't anticipate. Bide your time; focus on personal changes that will make your life easier. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't limit what you can do. Seize the moment, take advantage of what's available to you and express the way you feel and what you plan to do to those who will be affected by the decisions you make. Romance is favored. ★★★

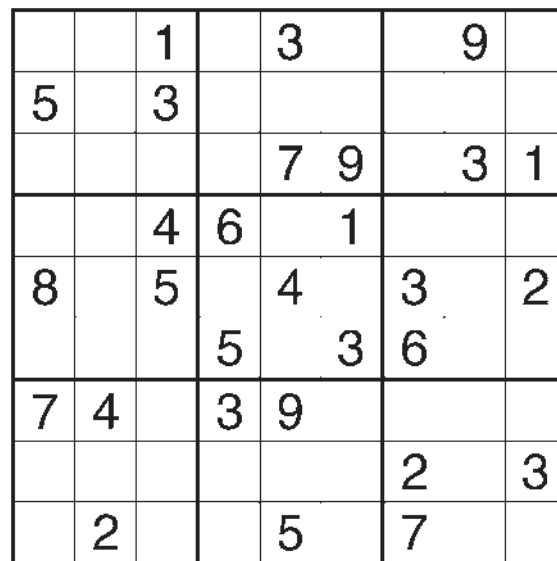
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get the lowdown before you approach someone who isn't likely to share your enthusiasm, opinions or plans. A problem at home will escalate if you try to hide information. Speak from the heart, and be willing to compromise. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are creative, generous and entertaining. You are knowledgeable and accommodating. Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

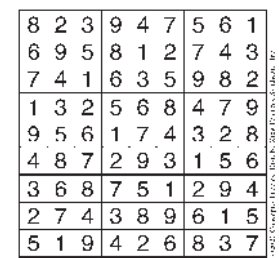
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

6/01

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE CICADAS ARE BACK

Solution: 13 letters

E G R A L A I R E T A M O I B
S Y E D I S L A V R E T N I U
M W L S E K I P S Y M B O L N
L A C I D O I R E P A G I M D
R O L I M O E T R E E M S O E
R H O E C A G G M O A Y U R
F O E T C A F D G S U A T H R
L L T M A S D R A S C A G T R
Y A I I I I A O E Y L R A P O
Y R U G S P N P I P G S E A U
L V E N H O T A S D U I P R N
D A D I N T P E M T E S P T D
U E C O G A M I R S O A A S D
O A D U L T S O V A A O E N S
L E N G T H S U R O S T R U M

© 2021 Arcs & Moe Syndication www.wonderword.com 6/1
Adults, Annual, Biogeographical, Biomaterial, Bug, Cicadoidea, Dog Day, Eggs, Fact, Flight, Fly, Hemiptera, Imago, Intervals, Large, Larvae, Length, Limbs, Loudly, Male, Mouthparts, Noisy, Ovipositor, Periodical, Plague, Reappear, Roots, Rostrum, Rush, Sap, Side, Spikes, Superfamily, Symbol, Tarsi, Tasmania, Tool, Tree, Underground
Yesterday's Answer: Amsterdam
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 45 through 62 order on me at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CP3, Suns beat Lakers, even series after Davis hurt



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Phoenix Suns coach Monty Williams initially planned to sit Chris Paul for Game 4 against the Lakers. A persistent shoulder injury had reduced the point guard to a fraction of himself, and Williams didn't think Paul could help in a crucial game.

Paul changed his coach's mind in an emotional pregame conversation Sunday.

"He said, 'Coach, let me start, and if you don't think I'm looking like I normally do, then take me out and we'll have to go in a different direction,'" Williams said. "This is one of those situations that I had to trust the player."

By the time Paul was finished orchestrating their superb second half, the Suns were headed in only one direction: back to Phoenix with a 2-2 series and greatly increased confidence in these playoff newcomers' ability to knock off the defending champs.

Paul had 18 points and nine assists, Devin Booker and Jae Crowder added 17 points apiece and the Suns leveled the first-round series with a 100-92 victory.

Deandre Ayton had 14 points and 17 rebounds for the second-seeded Suns, who took advantage of Anthony Davis' absence from the second half with a groin injury to reclaim home-court advantage in the series after two straight losses.

Game 5 is Tuesday night in

Phoenix.

Paul was largely a non-factor in Game 3 of his first postseason with his new team, clearly struggling to put up shots with his ailing right arm. After two days in which he didn't touch a basketball, Paul looked better in Sunday's pregame workout—and then looked a whole lot sharper in the game, contributing 12 points and all his assists in the second half of the Suns' first road playoff victory in over 11 years.

"Everything clicks a little better with 3 on the court and with 3 being himself," Crowder said. "I feel like we feed off of that. He's a big part of the puzzle. It's a little challenging when we don't have him doing things he normally does. It's definitely monumental that he's out there for our team."

Paul was grateful Williams was receptive to his fervent desire to play. He also assured his teammates that he would only persevere if he could help, telling Crowder and others: "I don't know how long it's going to be, but if you all feel like I'm out here looking like some trash, just tell me and I'll get out."

"I hadn't touched a basketball or anything since the last game," Paul added. "We didn't have a lot of guys that missed a lot of games this season, so we're used to playing a certain way. I was just glad I could be out there and help."

The Lakers had that exact problem: Without Davis, the



champs can't play the certain way they want to—and not even LeBron James could save them this time.

Clippers 106, Mavericks 81

In Dallas, Kawhi Leonard had 29 points and 10 rebounds, Paul George scored 20 points and Los Angeles manhandled Dallas in Game 4 to tie the series.

Reggie Jackson added 15 points, and the Clippers are headed home for Game 5 on Wednesday night much more sure of themselves than when they left LA in a two-game hole.

Luka Doncic started slowly after being listed as questionable because of cervical strain, the diagnosis for the Dallas sensation after he said following Game 3 that he felt

pain in his neck and down his left arm.

Playing with medical strips on his left shoulder, and wearing a large pad in that area when he wasn't playing, Doncic scored 19 points after averaging 38 in the first three games. He was 9 of 24 with series lows in rebounds and assists with six apiece.

Nets 141, Celtics 126

In Boston, Kyrie Irving had 39 points and 11 rebounds to quiet the first post-pandemic full house at the TD Garden, Kevin Durant scored 42 points and Brooklyn beat Boston to take a 3-1 series lead.

Afterward, as Irving walked off the court he was nearly hit by a bottle thrown from the stands. Irving and Nets guard Tyler Johnson turned to the stands and pointed; police

surrounded a man in a Kevin Garnett jersey before leading him out in handcuffs. A spokeswoman for the TD Garden said Boston Police arrested one person Sunday night "for throwing an object" and that the fans was "subject to a lifetime ban from TD Garden."

James Harden added 23 points and a career postseason-high 18 assists for Brooklyn. Game 5 is in New York on Tuesday night, when the Nets will try to advance to the Eastern Conference semifinals for the first time since 2014.

Jayson Tatum scored 40 points for the Celtics, following up his 50-point effort in a Game 3 victory. But with Jaylen Brown and Kemba Walker out with injuries, Tatum couldn't save the season on his own.

Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, right, falls after being fouled as Phoenix Suns guard Chris Paul stands at left during the second half in Game 4 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series Sunday, May 30, 2021, in Los Angeles.

Hawks 113, Knicks 96

In Atlanta, Trae Young scored 27 points, John Collins added 22 despite a smack to the lip and Atlanta frustrated Julius Randle and New York once again, pulling away in the second half for a 3-1 series lead.

The Hawks will look to wrap up their first playoff series victory since 2016 when they travel to Madison Square Garden for Game 5 on Wednesday night.

Randle was serenaded again by chants of "Overrated! Overrated! Overrated!" every time he put one up. The roars were deafening after a sequence in the third when Randle missed on a drive and had a put-back rim out before the Knicks knocked the ball out of bounds.

Randle's frustration boiled over less than a minute later when he slammed Collins to the court on another drive. Nothing was called initially, but Randle was assessed an offensive foul after a video review prompted by a challenge from Hawks coach Nate McMillan.

Randle did have his highest-scoring game of the series with 23 points, but he was just 7 of 19 from the field.

MIAMI (AP)—Not even an hour into the offseason, Jimmy Butler was already looking ahead.

There was no run to the NBA Finals this year for the Miami Heat, not even a single playoff victory for the team that rolled through the Eastern Conference in the restart bubble at Walt Disney World last summer. And when it was over, when Miami's four-game ouster by Milwaukee was complete, Butler quickly summed up the offseason plan.

"We can be better," Butler said. "We'll be better."

The Heat don't have a pick in this year's draft, at least for now, and likely will have somewhere around \$25 million in cap space that they can choose to use this summer.

Plenty of decisions need to be made about the roster for next season, but the clear cornerstones—Butler and Bam Adebayo, whose \$163 million, five-year extension begins this fall—are among the selling points to free agents. Among those who'll likely be considered, assuming he decides to

East champs no more, the Heat start to look to what's next

look for a new team: Toronto's Kyle Lowry, who insists that he wants to be part of more championship runs wherever he is.

"Definitely want that feeling again of getting back to the finals," Adebayo said.

There were no shortage of moments that the Heat can point to with regret this season.

They lost 10 games to teams that didn't end up making the playoffs, lost nine games they led by double figures and were wildly inconsistent. They won 11 out of 12 games in one stretch, then immediately dropped six in a row. And COVID-19 was another issue; Butler tested positive and missed 10 games, a stretch where the Heat went 2-8.

"This was one of the more memorable seasons just because it was so uniquely different than anything else we've experienced," coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Guys had to really adjust and adapt and I really commend our guys for doing that and not becoming cynical or making excuses for all the different protocols and

things outside of just the competition."

Even after a season of near-constant adversity, the Heat missed having home-court advantage in Round 1 by just one game in the standings. They're nowhere near where they want to be—it's always about contending for titles in Miami—but they believe this summer's work on the roster won't require a major overhaul.

"I'm appreciative that we get to call this our job, play the game that we love, being around people we enjoy being around," Butler said. "Maybe it'll be a little bit different next year, next season, but for this year it was fun. Through the ups and through the downs, nobody complained. You just go out there and compete, play hard, and I think we did that for the most part."

Some of what to watch for as the Heat enter the offseason:

BUTLER EXTENSION

There would seem to be a reasonable chance that Miami

and Butler work out an extension this summer. He's got two years left—the second year at his option—on his original four-year deal with the Heat, and with Adebayo signed for the next five seasons, taking care of Butler for future years figures to be high on the list of priorities.

OLADIPO'S REHAB

Victor Oladipo long wanted to play in Miami, and the Heat finally got him in a trade-deadline deal. He appeared in four games before having to shut down and finally get another surgery on the leg he injured in 2019.

He won't be ready for the start of next season—provided things start on time, at least—and it's still unclear when he could play again. Having surgery in May means a return isn't likely until November at the earliest. He passed on a \$45 million, two-year extension from Houston and enters free agency with the market unclear, given the uncertainty on when he'll play again.

ROBINSON AND NUNN

Duncan Robinson is Miami's single-season 3-point record-holder and one of the best in the league from beyond the arc, and Kendrick Nunn has started 111 regular-season games primarily at point guard in his two Miami seasons. Both are restricted free agents, and what Miami does with its qualifying offers is something to watch this summer.

DRAGIC AND IGUODALA

Other than Udonis Haslem (whom the Heat would warmly welcome back for a 19th season), Goran Dragic is Miami's longest-tenured player and the Heat hold a \$19 million option on him for next season.

Dragic is 35, but his per-36-minute averages this season—18.1 points, 4.6 rebounds, 5.9 assists—are roughly the same as the numbers he had during his lone All-Star season in 2017-18. Bringing him off the bench over the last couple of years might have extended

his career.

Andre Iguodala has a \$15 million team option for next season; he spent much of this season dealing with a balky hip yet was still effective in his role, and Spoelstra raves about him. Also, the 2021 NBA Finals will be the first since 2010 that do not have either the Heat or Iguodala taking part.

THE OLYMPICS

Butler, Adebayo and Robinson are among the 57 names under consideration by USA Basketball for the team that it'll take to the Tokyo Olympics. The U.S. team, to be coached by Gregg Popovich, will gather in Las Vegas for training camp in early July to start getting ready and play some warm-up contests.

Butler was part of the team that won gold for the U.S. at the Rio de Janeiro Games in 2016. Asked if he's thinking about playing in Tokyo, Butler sounded undecided.

"That's a good question," Butler said. "That is a very good question. It's not out of my mind just yet, but we definitely will see. I don't know."

Gausman, Dubón lead Giants past Kershaw, Dodgers



LOS ANGELES (AP)—

Kevin Gausman pitched six shutout innings and Mauricio Dubón hit one of two homers off Clayton Kershaw, helping the San Francisco Giants beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-4 on Sunday.

Gausman (6-0) allowed two hits, struck out seven and walked none before he was removed because of left hip tightness. He also helped himself with an RBI single in the fifth inning.

Jake McGee worked the ninth for his 12th save in 14 opportunities.

Austin Slater also connected against Kershaw (7-4), sending the Giants to their third win in the four-game set after Los Angeles posted a three-game sweep last weekend. San Francisco has the second-best record in the majors at 33-20 and is a half-game behind San Diego in the NL West.

Albert Pujols and Max Muncy each hit a two-run homer for Los Angeles.

Brewers 3, Nationals 0

In Washington, Brandon Woodruff outpitched Max Scherzer and Avisail Garcia homered again, leading Milwaukee to its fourth straight win.

The Brewers collected four of the game's seven hits. Washington totaled three runs in getting swept in the three-game series.

Woodruff (4-2) struck out 10, allowing only two hits in seven innings and leaving with a 1.27 ERA.

Scherzer (4-4) also struck out 10 and gave up two hits in six innings.

Garcia's 10th homer was a two-run drive in the first inning. Omar Narváez connected in the ninth, and Josh Hader earned his 12th save.

Rays 6, Phillies 2

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Mike Zunino and Brett Phillips homered as AL East-leading Tampa Bay won for the 15th time in 16 games.

The Rays have won four consecutive games, including a two-game sweep over Philadelphia, since Kansas City stopped their 11-game win streak on Tuesday.

Philadelphia, losers of eight of 11, got a run-scoring double from Brad Miller. The Phillies loaded the bases with two out in the ninth against Diego Castillo, but Odúbel Herrera flew out to deep center field.

Zunino hit his 12th homer with two out in the second, a two-run drive off Zach Eflin (2-5). Phillips connected for a solo shot during Tampa Bay's two-run fifth. Josh Fleming (5-3) got the win.

White Sox 3, Orioles 1

In Chicago, Lucas Giolito



struck out 12, and the White Sox handed the Orioles their 13th straight loss.

Baltimore matched its worst skid since 2009. It has been swept in four consecutive series and dropped 20 of 22 overall.

Nick Madrigal hit a tie-breaking triple in the seventh inning as the White Sox completed a four-game sweep. The AL Central leaders have won six of seven to climb a season-high 12 games over .500.

Giolito (5-4) allowed a run in seven innings. Liam Hendriks pitched a perfect ninth for his 13th save.

DJ Stewart homered for the Orioles. Dillon Tate (0-3) got the loss.

Tigers 6, Yankees 2

In Detroit, rookie Tarik Skubal pitched six shutout innings, and the Tigers completed their first home series sweep of the Yankees in 21 years.

New York was outscored 15-5 with 36 strikeouts during the series and went 1 for 25 with runners in scoring position. Shortstop Gleyber Torres had two errors and third baseman Gio Urshela one that contributed to a four-run third inning and a 6-0 Detroit lead.

New York's Michael King (0-2) allowed four runs — two earned—in 2 1/3 innings in an erratic audition to replace injured Corey Kluber in the rotation.

Detroit had not swept a three-game home series from the Yankees since May 12-14, 2000, its first season at Comerica Park.

Skubal (2-7) struck out eight

in his third big league win.

Astros 7, Padres 4

In Houston, Zack Greinke pitched eight effective innings and Kyle Tucker homered, lifting Houston to the victory.

Greinke (5-2) permitted one run and six hits. The right-hander improved to 14-3 in his career against the Padres.

Houston jumped on Blake Snell (1-2) for four runs in the first. Alex Bregman drove in Jose Altuve with a groundout, and Tucker capped the inning with a three-run homer to left.

The Astros added three more in the third. Aledmys Díaz hit a two-run double and scored on Taylor Jones' single.

Webster Rivas, Wil Myers and Ha-Seong Kim homered for the Padres, who fell to 8-1 in interleague play.

Reds 5, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Tyler Mahle worked five shutout innings, Eugenio Suárez homered and the Reds stopped the Cubs' six-game win streak.

Tyler Naquin drove in two runs for Cincinnati, and Nick Castellanos had two hits. Jonathan India also had two hits and drove in a run.

Castellanos extended his hitting streak to 16 games, the longest active streak in the majors.

The banged-up Cubs were once again without first baseman Anthony Rizzo, who missed his fifth straight game due to back tightness.

Mahle (4-2) allowed one hit, struck out eight and walked one. Tejay Antone got

four outs for his third save.

Kris Bryant hit an RBI single in the eighth for Chicago's only run. Jake Arrieta (5-5) was charged with five runs—two earned—and six hits in 3 2/3 innings.

Blue Jays 4, Indians 1, Game 1 Indians 6, Blue Jays 5, Game 2

In Cleveland, the Indians rallied for a doubleheader split, taking advantage of another wild outing for Tyler Chatwood.

Chatwood (0-2) forced in the tying run with his fourth straight walk in the seventh, and José Ramírez followed with a game-ending sacrifice fly.

Chatwood walked two batters in the ninth against Tampa Bay last Sunday, and Travis Bergen followed with three straight bases-loaded walks in the Blue Jays' 6-4 loss.

Ramírez and Amed Rosario each drove in two runs for Cleveland in the second game. Emmanuel Clase (3-2) got the win.

Teoscar Hernández and Rowdy Tellez homered against Aaron Civale (7-2) in the opener, leading Toronto to the victory. Ross Stripling (1-3) pitched five innings of one-run ball for the win, and Jordan Romano got three outs for his third save.

Josh Naylor went deep for Cleveland.

Indians bench coach DeMarlo Hale filled in for manager Terry Francona, who attended his youngest daughter Jamie's wedding in Rhode Island.

Angels 4, Athletics 2

In Oakland, Calif., Jared Walsh's 12th homer sparked a four-run second inning for the Angels, and four relievers combined for six scoreless innings.

David Fletcher doubled twice and drove in two runs for Los Angeles, which won their second straight for a split of the four-game series.

José Suarez (2-0) pitched three hitless innings for the win. Raisel Iglesias recorded four outs for his ninth save.

Matt Olson and Sean Murphy each drove in a run for the AL West-leading A's. Cole Irvin (3-7) pitched six innings of six-hit ball.

Diamondbacks 9, Cardinals 2

In Phoenix, Ketel Marte homered and drove in three runs, and the Diamondbacks stopped a 13-game losing streak.

Arizona is just 19-35. It had been on the National League's longest losing streak since the Diamondbacks' 14-game skid in 2004.

Matt Peacock (2-1) got his first big league win as a starting pitcher. He surrendered two runs and six hits in six innings.

Josh Reddick had three hits for Arizona, which took advantage of three errors to score two unearned runs. Riley Smith worked three innings for his first career save.

Dylan Carlson homered for the Cardinals, who had won four in a row. Kwang Hyun Kim (1-3) allowed four runs and a career-high nine hits in five innings.

San Francisco Giants starting pitcher Kevin Gausman (34) throws during the first inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers Sunday, May 30, 2021, in Los Angeles.

Mariners 4, Rangers 2

In Seattle, Yusei Kikuchi took a no-hit bid into the sixth inning, Kyle Seager homered and the Mariners sent the Rangers to their 12th straight road loss.

The Rangers matched a team record for most consecutive road losses set in 2003. Texas is off Monday before continuing its trip with three games at Colorado.

Seattle has won a season-best four in a row. Texas has lost six straight overall.

Kikuchi (3-3) allowed two runs in 6 2/3 innings. Keynan Middleton got three outs for his fourth save.

Joey Gallo hit a two-run homer for Texas. Hyeon-Jong Yang (0-3) got the loss.

Royals 6, Twins 3

In Minneapolis, Whit Merrifield had two hits and scored two runs, leading the Royals to the victory.

Andrew Benintendi and Hunter Dozier each drove in two runs for Kansas City, which had dropped three of four. Dozier hit a solo drive in the ninth inning for his sixth homer.

Royals right-hander Brad Keller improved to 3-0 in his last four starts. He permitted three runs and five hits in five innings.

Kyle Zimmer, Scott Barlow and Greg Holland combined for four hitless innings in relief. Holland worked the ninth for his third save in five chances.

Minnesota went 2 for 11 with runners in scoring position and stranded 10 runners.

Ben Rortvedt hit his first career homer for the Twins. Matt Shoemaker (2-6) gave up five runs in 4 1/3 innings.

Rockies 4, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, Charlie Blackmon got three extra-base hits and keyed a two-run rally in the ninth inning that sent Colorado to the victory.

Blackmon hit two doubles and a triple as the Rockies ended a five-game losing streak. They were shut out in both games of a doubleheader against Pittsburgh on Saturday.

After Pirates closer Richard Rodriguez (3-1) walked Ryan McMahon with one out in the ninth, Blackmon hit an RBI double off the wall in center to make it 3-all.

Blackmon scored the go-ahead run on a two-out single from Matt Adams.

Colorado's Daniel Bard (3-3) struck out three in the final two innings.

Osaka fined \$15K for skipping French Open media; Thiem out

PARIS (AP)—Naomi Osaka was fined \$15,000 when she skipped the news conference after her first-round victory at the French Open on Sunday — and drew a stunning warning from all four Grand Slam tournaments that she could face stiffer penalties, including disqualification or even suspension, if she continues to avoid the media.

Osaka returned to Roland Garros after sitting out the tournament last year and turned in a mistake-filled 6-4, 7-6 (4) victory over 63rd-ranked Patricia Maria Tig at Court Philippe Chatrier on Day 1. She had declared Wednesday on social media she would not speak to the press and kept that promise.

Hours later, Osaka turned to her preferred method of communication these days, tweeting: “anger is a lack of understanding. change makes people uncomfortable.”

Other results perhaps were more newsworthy than a straight-set win by the No. 2-ranked Osaka — U.S. Open champion and two-time French Open runner-up Dominic Thiem’s 4-6, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 loss to 68th-ranked Pablo Andujar comes to mind — but the events that unfolded after the Japanese superstar’s match were of high interest.

Tennis players are required to attend news conferences if requested to do so. The maximum fine, of course, is not a big deal to Osaka, the world’s highest-earning female athlete thanks to endorsement contracts totaling tens of millions of dollars.

She framed the matter as a mental health issue, saying that it can create self-doubt to have to answer questions after a loss.

“She’s capable of making her own choices and obviously she will do always what’s best for her,” Tig said. “I think that’s what’s happening now.”

Other players, notably 13-time French Open champion Rafael Nadal and No. 1-ranked Ash Barty, have said they respect Osaka’s right to take a stance but explained that they consider speaking to reporters part of the job.

The fine was assessed by the tournament referee at Roland Garros and announced in a joint statement from the president of the French tennis federation, Gilles Moreton, and counterparts at the sport’s other majors: Tennis Australia President Jayne Hrdlicka, All England Club Chairman Ian Hewitt and U.S. Tennis Association President Mike McNulty.



“A core element of the Grand Slam regulations is the responsibility of the players to engage with the media, whatever the result of their match, a responsibility which players take for the benefit of the sport, the fans and for themselves,” they said. “These interactions allow both the players and the media to share their perspective and for the players to tell their story.”

They said they understand the importance of protecting athletes’ mental health but also noted that “rules are in place to ensure all players are treated exactly the same, no matter their stature, beliefs or

achievement.”

The statement said Osaka had been approached and asked to reconsider her position but there was a “lack of engagement.”

Osaka, the group of Slam leaders said, has been “advised” that “should she continue to ignore her media obligations during the tournament, she would be exposing herself to possible further Code of Conduct infringement consequences.”

Citing the rule book, the statement noted that “tougher sanctions” from “repeat violations” could include being defaulted from the tournament

and “the trigger of a major offense investigation that could lead to more substantial fines and future Grand Slam suspensions.”

Osaka’s agent did not reply to an emailed request for comment from the AP.

Her sister, Mari, wrote in a post on Reddit, which she later deleted, that Naomi was “not OK mentally” after a first-round loss this month in Rome.

“Her confidence was completely shattered and I think that everyone’s remarks and opinions have gotten to her head and she herself believed that she was bad on clay,”

Japan’s Naomi Osaka serves the ball to Romania’s Patricia Maria Tig during their first round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium Sunday, May 30, 2021 in Paris.

Mari wrote. “This isn’t true and she knows that in order to do well and have a shot at winning Roland Garros she will have to believe that she can. ... So her solution was to block everything out.”

After her win Sunday, Osaka did go ahead with the perfunctory exchange of pleasantries with an on-court French Open “interviewer” who lobs softball questions so spectators can hear something from the athletes.

The topic of Osaka’s troubles on clay arose in that chat with former player Fabrice Santoro.

“I would say it’s a work in progress,” said Osaka, who has won four Slam titles on hard courts but never been past the French Open’s third round. “Hopefully the more I play, the better it will get.”

Unlike Osaka, Thiem has shown plenty of prowess on clay, never before losing in the first round at Paris and making it as far as the final twice before losing to — who else? — Nadal in 2018 and 2019.

MPU

From Page 20

besting Matansa FC, 3-0.

Following their victory against TanHoldings, MP United 2 continued their win streak and landed the first finals seat by dominating Shirley’s, 2-0, who gained a match against MP United 2 after beating sister team MP United 1, 1-0.

The division runner-up also swept all its matches before ultimately losing to MP United 2. They conquered their first match with a 1-0 over Southern United.

The team moved on to beat

Kanoa, 3-0, before advancing to its match against TanHoldings where they won 3-2.

In the quarterfinals, Paire faced MP United 1, gaining a 1-0 victory before edging out Shirley’s in the semifinals, 2-0, to land the second finals seat.

Meanwhile, in the U15 division, MP United 1 took home the title after sweeping all its matches, first beating Paire, 2-0, who bested TanHoldings in their prior match, 1-0.

MP United 1 moved on to battle Kanoa 2 where they took a 1-0 victory to advance to the finals.

Kanoa 2, after losing their first shot at the finals seat, fought in the losers bracket for another shot at the title.

In the semifinals, Kanoa 2 bested MP United 2, 1-0, to gain the second finals seat.

MP United 2 was the undefeated team in the bottom bracket before facing Kanoa 2. The team edged out TanHoldings, 2-1, before moving on to beat Paire, 4-0.

In the quarterfinals, MP United 2 outplayed Matansa, 4-3, to gain access to the semifinals.

Results for the other divisions will be published throughout the week.

MAJORS

From Page 20

Saipan Little League president Mike Borja delivered the news that Little League would be re-starting to some mixed feelings. The coaches had clearly hoped to have a full season with multiple age groups in the league. Still, the disappointment was overshadowed by their eagerness to get local baseball back in any capacity, and they were ultimately optimistic for the coming summer games.

The Majors is anticipating a competitive season, with five local teams vying for victory

this summer. The lineup has the Braves, Blue Jays, Comets, Marlins, and Twins in competition.

The games will be following restricted guidelines set by the COVID-19 Task Force. Among those restrictions is a limit on the games played on a field in a day. To reduce crowding and encourage social distancing, only two competitive Little League games will be played on a field in a day. This is expected to extend the season a little longer than usual, with Majors games possibly continuing into August. However, since schools will be out for

summer on June 11, the Majors can hold games on more than just weekends, and look forward to weekday games on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to take up the slack.

A representative of the task force is expected to attend the first few games, to ensure players and coaches are staying safe and that the Little League is up to the challenges of social distancing.

Borja is eager and optimistic as the restrictions begin to lift. “Let’s get back to normalcy. There’s a light at the end of the tunnel,” and the Little League intends to move toward it.

FIRST

From Page 20

tage during the bike portion of the race even though it was the most challenging event.

“I really struggled with the biking because I’m not use to it. But, It was on the second lap of the bike, after everyone went down to Kensington [Hotel], I passed about five or six people and I realized that they were having trouble because of the wind. Fortunately for me, I knew how to counter that by putting my head down and I was able to pass them around Banzai [Cliff] and on the way back I was able to catch up to more,” he said.

Deluna said it took one month of continuous training

to be triathlon-ready.

“I really struggled with the biking because I’m not use to having long routes for the bike so I needed to focus more on my biking and doing more 20K and 40K as much as possible and because of that, I was able to condition myself as much as possible,” he said.

Triathlon novice Chong Nam Lee came in second place with a time of 3:29:37 for the 60-and-over category after Florence Antonio, submitting a time of 3:18:51. Rounding up the Top 3 was Manny Sitchon with a time of 3:31:57.

For Lee, joining the triathlon was more of getting over his fear and finally crossing it off of his bucket list.



Chong Nam Lee, middle, poses for a photo after receiving his first Paupau 5150 Taga Triathlon medal last Saturday.

“Joining a triathlon was on my bucket list. Finally, I did it today and it was a little hard for me. I didn’t even expect

to make second place but I did and I’m so surprised. I was afraid but I’m so happy that I finally did it,” he said.

Like Deluna, Lee said the swimming and running portions were no trouble for him but the biking part was where he encountered problems.

“For me, the hardest part was biking because every morning I go swimming and every day I go running so those were no problems. The problem was the bike [split] and the bike that I was riding was not my bike, it was my friend’s bike, and the bike was a mountain bike so it was also hard because it was a little heavy so that was where I struggled,” he said.

Fortunately, despite lagging behind in the bike portion, Lee gained momentum in the last portion of the race which was the running portion because he had been training barefoot for months.

“After the bike [split] was running so when I started running, that’s when I started to pass others and I felt very comfortable during the running. Every morning I run barefoot at the [Oleai Track & Field] so I can get used to it,” he said.

The Paupau 5150 Taga Triathlon was named as such because it encompassed 1.5-km swim, 40-km bike, and 10-km run, which adds up to 51.5 km. It was organized by the Triathlon Association of the CNMI.



CP3, Suns beat
Lakers, even series
after Davis hurt

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

Osaka fined \$15K for
skipping French Open
media; Thiem out

PAGE 19



20 TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MPU are U12, U15 champs of President's Cup



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
MP United 2 players pose for a photo after winning the President's Cup U12 tournament last Friday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Lillian Moroney, Richard Zhao, Matthew Peng, Landon Pudney, Landon Springer Jordan, Stephen Yeom, Henry Yeom, and David Peng.

MP United 1's team members were Aubrey Castro, Fona Regan, Stephanie Woo, Jack Raho, William Lee, Kaitlyn Chavez, Cody Shimizu,

Takeru Jim, Sean Park, and Jun Kim. In the U12 double eliminations tournament, MP United 2 swept all its matches, finishing the tournament undefeated. They came out on top in their match against TanHoldings, 2-0, who managed to advance after

See MPU on Page 19

First time's the charm in 5150 Triathlon

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

This year's Paupau 5150 Taga Triathlon was definitely the year for first-timers with a handful of them topping various categories.

During the event last Saturday, a number of first-timers won top places last weekend including overall winner Jared Inselman. Other first-timers who made their way into the Top 3 were Daryll Deluna and Chong Nam Lee.

Deluna, a Northern Marianas College student, came in first place with a time of 3:53:18 in the 19-under-category and it was only his first time joining a triathlon. Coming in at second place under the same category was Eric Phillip David with a time of 4:07:15.

"This is my first triathlon. I'm very blessed and very proud of myself. I didn't expect myself to be first place since it is my first triathlon and I'm just very thankful and happy," Deluna said.

According to the first-time

winner, his biggest struggle of the day was keeping his patience.

"Patience was probably the hardest part, patience while you're doing the actual event. There was a lot of times I was running, biking, or swimming where it felt endless so I really needed to stay patient and I needed to keep calm and move at a steady pace until the finish line," he said.

However, the work was worth it because he was able to bring to life one of his dreams which was joining a triathlon.

"It has always been my dream to be part of a triathlon because I really look up to people who are ironmans and other triathletes in the Philippines so this has always been my dream since I was a kid. I always thought this wasn't possible because it can also be expensive depending on where you are but since I saw an opportunity here on Saipan, I just took that opportunity and I just joined," he said.

Deluna gained his advancement

See FIRST on Page 19



By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MP United topped both the U12 and U15 divisions of the President's Cup last Friday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

In the U12 finals, MP United 2 took home the title via a 2-0 victory over Paire Football Club. Meanwhile, their sister team, MP United 1, gained a

3-2 victory over Kanoa FC in the U15 Finals..

MP United 2 consisted of members Riku Takahashi, Silva Keanu, Moshe Sikkell,

Majors division set to open on June 19

By CODY RACE
cody.race111@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

There's good news and bad news for the Saipan Little League this season.

The president and coaches of the island's Little League program met this weekend to hash out the much-anticipated return of baseball to the roster of local sports leagues open to the islands' youth. Like many sports, youth baseball has had an overly long offseason for reasons that we're all well aware of. Now that restrictions are

loosening, a season has been set, and Saipan can look forward to Little League Majors games as a regular event, beginning June 19.

The CNMI Little League splits players into different



divisions based on age group. Thus far, only the Majors League, for players 10-12 years old, has a scheduled season. The Minors, for ages 6-9, and the Juniors and Seniors, 13-14 and 15-16, have

yet to resume.

Coaches in attendance were Tony Camacho, George Camacho, Peter Camacho, Greg Camacho, Froilan Camacho, and Chel Castro.

See MAJORS on Page 19



MARK RABAGO
Saipan Little League president Mike Borja, fourth from right, poses with the organization's officers and Little League managers and coaches in this file photo from a recent meeting.



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Daryll Deluna, middle, poses for a photo after receiving his first Paupau 5150 Taga Triathlon medal last Saturday.